



EURODATA Newsletter

No. 3

Spring 1996

EURODATA Research Archive of the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research

Data Infrastructure

The Luxembourg Employment Study - L.E.S.

by M. F. Förster5

Computer

SOSIG - The Social Science Information Gateway

by D. Hiom & N. Ferguson10

Desktop Mapping with Microsoft Excel 7.0

by M. Quick & J. Schweikart...12

Research Groups & Projects

New ESA Research Networks:

Youth and Generation.....15

Industrial Relations16

Southern Europe16

Comparative Research17

Four more networks.....18

European Family Indicators

by F. Rothenbacher.....19

Country Profile

Belgium

by F. Rothenbacher.....24

Noticeboard

Publications, Announcements,

Conferences.....26

About this Newsletter.....28

István György Tóth

The Social Research Informatics Center (TÁRKI)

The Hungarian Social Science Data Archive and Contact in Empirical Social Research

This article could also have been put into the „Data infrastructure“ section of this newsletter, since the Social Research Informatics Center (TÁRKI) is a combination of a data archive, thus contributing to the development of the data infrastructure and a research center. TÁRKI was founded in 1985 as a service organization by the major social science research units, in order to set up an information network for social research in Hungary. Further development of their cooperation in methodological research was also among the aims of the foundation.

In 1996, TÁRKI has over ten years of experience in collecting, processing, archiving and publishing social science data. TÁRKI has played a leading role in recent research into Hungarian social stratification and TÁRKI is the home institution of the Hungarian Household Panel, which has been the leading source of reliable survey data about the dynamics of social change in Hungary over the past five years.

TÁRKI is a non-profit organization, serving the aims of its founders and, in general it acts for the development of social science in Hungary. The aim of this article is to introduce TÁRKI to the reader and to summarize its activities.

Activities

TÁRKI has, by now, accumulated more than ten years of experience in collecting, processing, archiving and publishing relevant social science data. Besides its academic activities, TÁRKI also carries out several policy oriented research projects which are often used and cited by policy makers and in other academic institutions. As examples, the most recent projects produced analyses on the size and development of the private sector, changes in social structure and mobility, the incidence of taxes and transfers on household incomes, and several studies on poverty, inequalities and the effectiveness of welfare programs in alleviating poverty. The range of activities cover survey fieldwork, data analysis, archiving and methodological research.

Collecting survey data

TÁRKI has its own survey system with a trained network of interviewers. In addition to research projects administered in TÁRKI, the survey department carries out sociological surveys to member institutions and outside agents also. The survey department (Head : József Tarjányi, tarjj@tarki.hu) has set up and operates a joint survey system in order to meet the needs of individual researchers and research units. TÁRKI ad-

ministers independent studies on both stratified samples targeting on smaller sections of the society and nationwide random probability samples.

...continued on page 2

Shorter questionnaire blocks or eventually single items are also included in omnibus surveys, depending on research needs. Fieldwork in various surveys is often supplemented by research in survey methodology, and the staff of the department publishes the results in various journals.

Basic social research

Since TÁRKI is a consortium of ten different institutions, its broad contacts to the academic community ensure the wide scope of projects it may be involved in. However, TÁRKI has its own research department (head: Péter Róbert, robert@tarki.hu) also. The Research Department started its activities in 1989. In recent years the department's main fields of research have included social inequalities, social mobility, electoral behaviour, ethnic identity and religiosity in Hungary. The department participates in various international comparative projects (description of some of these follows below). Working papers and preliminary reports of the group used to be published in TÁRKI research reports before publication.

Archiving and disseminating data

The TÁRKI Social Science Data Archive (head: József Mészáros, meszaros@tarki.hu) was established already in 1985 to store standardized and highly processed data from various sociological and socio-statistical surveys and make them easily accessible for secondary analyses. Since then it developed to a data archive that stores many of the Hungarian and some international social science datasets from the eighties and from the beginning of the nineties. Currently more than 300 different datasets are stored here and used by various other research organizations. Currently this is the only data archive in East-Central Europe that is member of international data organizations.

Mathematical statistics and software development

The main activity of the department of mathematical statistics (head: Tamás Rudas, rudas@tarki.hu) is developing new statistical methods that can be applied in the social sciences (e.g. in multivariate analysis of categorical data). In addition to developing new methods and following recent developments in the international literature, the department is involved in software development and updating. The new methods and software are demonstrated in TÁRKI's preprint series and by courses organized by TÁRKI. The department's main project in recent years has been the development of the highly competitive and original DISTAN (Discrete Statistical Analysis) software package. Most recently, the staff of the department is working on producing microsimulation software. Publications of the staff appear in various professional journals in Hungary, Europe and overseas.

Projects and products

In addition to the general description of the activities, four main areas are worth further exploring.

The TÁRKI Social Science Data Archive

In general, the justification for data archiving is the same in Hungary than anywhere in the world: making social science data available for the wider professional and non-professional public is an activity that gives a real value added to social science research. However, there are some further specific arguments to archive data in Hungary. The Hungarian economy and society is undergoing major changes in the recent years. Research interest in that is booming, the need for relevant data is very strong. Also, the society is changing so fast that sometimes deep and insightful statistical analysis cannot even cope with the pace of changes. As the

data that is produced by various agencies provides tremendous information on the nature and magnitude of changes, data archiving has an immanent function of keeping currently available information in a format that helps future scholars to do retrospective research after the events, when the time horizon allows deeper and more comprehensive analyses.

The scope of interest of the TÁRKI Data Archive is wide, ranging from general information on social trends through labor markets and values and attitudes. Themes of surveys stored in the TÁRKI Data Archive include: family, demographic indicators, social statistics, social stratification, social mobility, poverty, deviant behaviour, health, life style, social networks, values and attitudes, rural society, agriculture, work, occupations, consumption patterns, housing, education, social policy, various ethnic and immigrant groups and social strata, local communities, religion and elections. The TÁRKI Data Catalogue and Information Bulletin contains a more detailed description of the topics of the acquisitions of the Data Archive of TÁRKI. On line access to the catalogue, guide to use the Archive and ways to access data from that can be found on <http://www.tarki.hu>.

The Hungarian Household Panel Study

Hungarian Household Panel started in 1991 as a joint project of TÁRKI and the Sociology Department of Budapest University of Economics, based on a research grant obtained from the National Scientific Research Fund (OTKA). The total starting sample comprised 2,600 flats across the country. In 1994 and 1995, gaining the professional and financial support of the Central Statistical Office (KSH), Hungarian Household Panel was also a joint project of the three aforementioned institutions.

The research was launched by the Research Board in the strong belief that in a period of transformation of Hungarian economy and society there is a great need for methodologically well founded researches that are capable of thoroughly documenting the major characteristics of the changes. The labour market is dynamically transforming, there are dramatic changes in the field of income inequalities, poverty, and the structure of life prospects for the different strata of society are greatly altered. Our aim is to follow and investigate these changes. The major research questions concern the income situation and the magnitude of wealth of households as well as the major determining factors of impoverishment and economic decline on the one hand and advancement and leaving poverty behind on the other. Exploring the economic and financial strategies of households and the demographic and employment histories of household members is also of considerable significance.

The starting sample (a four-stage stratified household sample) represents the Hungarian non-institutional households. The questionnaires contain basic household level data about the relevant demographic and housing characteristics, household incomes, expenditures and wealth, and important individual data such as income, school attainment and labor market position of the household members. The fieldwork has been carried out from April to May of the year in 1992, 1993, 1994 and in 1995 by the trained interviewers network of TARKI. The 1996 wave is under preparation.

The SPSS/PC or mainframe files are available in both a Hungarian and English version from TARKI. There are no restrictions on scientific use of the data. Publications from the panel include a great number of items ranging from periodic research reports produced yearly after each waves through articles in daily newspapers to articles in respected professional jour-

nals. The number of all appearances already exceeded a hundred.

Monitoring social and economic changes: social reports

In 1990, right at the beginning of the systemic change, TÁRKI started publishing a series of reports on changes in Hungarian social and economic conditions. The editors of the reports are Rudolf Andorka (rector of Budapest University of Economics), Tamás Kolosi (president of TÁRKI, kolosi@tarki.hu) and György Vukovich (former president of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office). The reports appeared in every second year, in 1990, 1992 and 1994. The 1996 edition is under preparation and will be published in Hungarian by the end of the fall in 1996. English edition of the 1990 volume has been published and a merged 1992-1994 edition is currently edited for press.

The concept of the reports is to provide data and interdisciplinary interpretations on economic and societal changes. The articles in the reports fall into two parts. One group of articles provide a follow up analysis of changes in the observed years, based on selected social and economic indicators. Another group of articles provides in-depth analyses of certain issues that are in the focus of public interest.

In addition, the 1996 edition will contain a strong comparative section, where social developments and attitudes are compared to other countries from East and West.

Policy studies and the microsimulation database

Under a contract from the Hungarian Ministry of Finance TÁRKI has developed a unique data base for microsimulation studies regarding the socio-economic status of the Hungarian population, including information about family structure, labour force participation, household income and expenditure, and strategies and aspirations to cope with recent economic hardships. This data base is a combination of information from four different sources: the Hungarian Household

Panel for the demographic and income data of households, the Household Budget Survey of the CSO for household expenditures, individual personal income tax records of the tax authorities for tax data and a special TARKI survey of households for family strategies, aspirations, compliance with tax laws, etc.

Technically, the microsimulation data base adds additional information from the three other sources to the actual records (2,000 families) of the Hungarian Household Panel. Matching is based on a dynamic matching algorithm (using different matching depths depending on the available data and various reliability criteria) using a ten-times multiple imputation technique, in order to minimize the variance reducing effect of imputed data. The method developed is a product in itself, since it is independent of the actual datasets used.

This data base is unique in the country and can be considered exceptionally rich by international standards also. This project is planned to be an on-going one in the near future. Since each of the base datasets are made available each year, maintaining the relevance of the data in the database can be ensured.

Plans for the future use of the database include ex ante modeling of the possible effects of various policy options that are put forward on the political and scientific agenda.

Structure and Organization of TÁRKI

TÁRKI is a consortium of ten different member institutions. They are contributing to the operation of the center by paying membership fees. However, a great bulk of the operating costs of TÁRKI are drawn from research contracts from various research funds, government and private agencies. Among TÁRKI member institutions one can find major Hungarian universities, sociological research centers and statistical offices. The center inside is divided into four departments, along the lines of the classi-

fication of activities given in the first section of this description.

International contacts

TÁRKI is member of various international data organizations like the International Federation of Data Organizations (IFDO) and the Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA). Since 1991 TÁRKI has been member of ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium of Political and Social Research). ICPSR's services are provided free to all Hungarian social researchers. Free exchange of data among CESSDA members enables quick and cheap access to research documented in foreign data banks. Through these memberships, catalogues of important social science data banks are made available to the Hungarian research community through TÁRKI.

TÁRKI joined the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) as

early as 1986, right after it was founded by American, Australian, Austrian, British, German and Italian academic research institutes. The aim of ISSP is to supply English language files of data derived from the jointly defined 15 minute long annual questionnaire blocks asked on nationwide representative samples. By 1993, the number of participant countries reached twenty. Every participant receives the complete files from each member country.

In addition, a number of research projects carried out in TÁRKI are incorporated into various international projects. The Hungarian Household Panel, for example, has become a part of the Panel Comparability project coordinated by CEPS/INSTEAD in Luxembourg and it has been also put into the Luxembourg Income Study database. In addition, for a number of international comparative projects,

TÁRKI represents the Hungarian contact and is responsible for the Hungarian parts of the research.

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Michael F. Förster

The Luxembourg Employment Study - L.E.S.

LES is a new project that is associated with the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS at CEPS/ INSTEAD); this project has been partly funded by the Human Capital and Mobility Programme of the European Commission, and the Nordic Research Council. Its aim is to make available to researchers a set of labour force surveys from the early 90ies in order to study labour market related issues such as unemployment, retirement, investment in education etc. Similar to the procedure followed by LIS, national micro data are standardised and stored under the auspices of the Luxembourg Government (Centre Informatique de l'Etat) and can be accessed from remote sites via EARN-BITNET or INTERNET, without allowing any direct access to the individual data.

Objectives

At the beginning of the 90ies, disequilibria on the labour market such as persistent unemployment combined with labour shortage in specific branches, are on the top of policy and research agendas in most industrialised countries. The importance of these issues are documented for instance by the two employment summits of the G7, but also by a major project of the OECD in this area, the recently published „Jobs Study“.

Against this background, the aim of the LES project is to provide an analytical tool for research with internationally comparable micro data. Analysis of labour market behavior on an individual level or in the frame of a household, of educational and occupational patterns, of retirement decisions and related issues also would enhance interdisciplinary research (economics, sociology, political science). Countries which will be integrated into LES are, besides member states of the European Union, other Western European countries (EFTA), Central and Eastern European reform countries, Asian countries and oversea countries (US, Canada, Australia).

The following are examples of research areas which would be stimulated by the LES project:

- regional patterns of employment and unemployment;

- analysis of unemployment and employment turnover; the differences in the structure of the European labour market on the one side, and the North American on the other;
- the rapid transformation in Eastern European labour markets: labour shedding and differences in the development of unemployment;
- relationship between human capital and economic performance;
- social policy effects of welfare state programmes; the role of unemployment insurance and assistance;
- job search behaviour; inactivity and discouragement;
- migration issues: movement of individuals within countries, and between countries;
- labour market behaviour of the elderly; retirement decisions;
- clarification of the structure of unemployment across regions, occupations, educational categories, gender, age, etc.

Coverage

Currently, micro data sets from labour force surveys from twelve countries are stored on the Luxembourg mainframe computer: Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Additional country files will be available during 1995. The attached Table 1 lists the countries available and those with which discussions are under way. Table 2 gives an overview of the main characteristics of the surveys and concepts used for the available files.

In general, labour force surveys are well developed and are more compatible than other national surveys, such as income or household budget surveys. In a first stage, a standardised list of variables for the labour force surveys stored at LES has been developed. The structure of this list is inspired by the 1992 EUROSTAT classification of aggregates related to the labour force and the ILO definitions of employment, unemployment and inactivity. This list contains 90 variables divided into twelve main groups (these variables are shown in Table 3):

- I. Demographic background
- II. Work status
- III. Employment characteristics - main job
- IV. Information about second job
- V. Previous work experience of persons not in employment
- VI. Search for employment
- VII. Situation of inactive persons
- VIII. Education and training
- IX. Situation one year before survey
- X. Labour force status
- XI. Earnings and income not in employment
- XII. Technical items.

This variable list is applied to the LES micro data sets, in function of: i) availability (contents of data sets), ii) flexibility (including the possibility of adapting the structure), and iii) identification of research needs using LES. Table 4 shows the occupational and industrial codifications available in the LES Micro Data Base. To meet its objectives, LES is functioning as a twofold research network, co-operating with the national and international research community as well as CSOs and national and international authorities.

Access

Since May 1995, a new inquiry system technique has been set up by the LIS team which allows analyses of the data files via internet, using alternatively SPSS or SAS programming language. This new system includes the LES data files; LES is therefore available on the same basis as LIS via the remote access system. For receiving details on the technics of this new system as well as the necessary registration form, please contact Caroline de Tombeur, LIS at CEPS/INSTEAD, B.P. 48, L-4501 Differdange-Luxembourg (caroline@post.ceps.lu).

Documentation

A complete set of documentation is available for the LES data sets. This can be provided on paper and disk or, for most of the files, via ftp and includes:

- concise overview documentation for all data files:
 - the standardised variable list, including value labels and filters;

- the list of available (harmonised or standardised) and missing variables;
- the derivation table, describing the transformation from original to standardised variables;
- country specific documentation:
 - description and documentation of all original variables from the national surveys;
 - unweighted and weighted frequency tables for the original and standardised data files;
 - questionnaires of all surveys.
- sample files:
 - test-samples (1,000 cases) of the standardised LES files in SPSS-portable format.

Institutional documentation (such as descriptions of unemployment benefit schemes) alongside the relevant data sets is provided in conjunction with the LIS IDB (institutional data base). In addition, a small-scale database on corresponding macro labour market indicators will be set up at a later stage. This database would supplement analyses of the micro data with time series on, inter alia, standardised unemployment rates, long-term

unemployment and labour force participation for age classes, gender, region, industry, etc.

A first presentation of LES has been given to the Sixth LIS Summer Workshop in July 1994. In December 1994, about 30 students participated in a PhD workshop in Oslo using LES in the frame of a seminar on labour market analysis; this also gave students the opportunity to work with sub-samples of the first standardised LES data files. In the frame of small-scale seminars, LES has also been presented during 1995 and 1996 at CEPS/INSTEAD in Luxembourg, the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna, the University of Liège/Belgium, the Institute for Economic Research (ifo) in Munich, the BLS/Washington, the CEU/Prague, at ZEW and MZES/Mannheim, the University of Leuven/Belgium and the European University Institute in Florence. In autumn 1996, a symposium in Luxembourg will discuss the first completed research projects using LES.

Table 1: Countries Included in LES

Country	database available and standardised	database available - not standardised	inclusion planned during 1996	inclusion planned at a later stage
Austria '91	x			
Czech Republic '94	x			
Finland '90	x			
Hungary '93	x			
Luxembourg '92	x			
Norway '90	x			
Poland '94	x			
Slovenia '94	x			
Spain '93	x			
Sweden '90	x			
United Kingdom '89	x			
United States '90	x			
France '95		x		
Switzerland '94			x	
Australia			x	
Slovak Republic			x	
Belgium				x
Germany				x
Canada				x
Iceland				x
Italy				x
Netherlands				x
Denmark				x
Lithuania				x
Bulgaria				x
Romania				x

Table 2: Main Characteristics of Underlying Surveys

	name of survey, period	number of observations	coverage
Austria	Mikrozensus, September 1991	56.510	resident population, all persons in private households
Czech Republic	Vyberoveho Setreni Pracovnich sil, Spring 1994 (March-May)	62.630	resident population, all civilian persons
Finland	Tyoevoiman vuosihaastattelu sysky 1990 (Sep-Nov) (add. inf. from monthly LFS 1989)	36.274	resident population, persons aged 15-74
France	Enquête sur l'emploi, Mars 1995	151.146	resident population, persons aged 15 and over
Hungary	Munkaero-felmeres, 1st quarter 1993 (Jan-March)	51.244	resident population, persons aged 15-74
Luxembourg	Enquête annuel sur les forces du travail 1992 (May)	15.297	resident population, all civilian persons
Norway	Arbeidskraftundersøkelsen, 2nd quarter 1990 (add. inf. from 1989)	21.391	resident population, persons aged 16-74
Poland	Stale badanie aktywnosci ekonomicznej ludnosci, 2nd quarter 1994 (May)	54.743	resident population, persons aged 15 and over
Slovenia	Anketa o delovni sili 1994 (May)	25.059	resident population, all persons in private households
Spain	Encuesta de la poblacion activa, 2nd quarter 1993 (Apr-Jun)	190.708	resident population, all persons in private households
Sweden	Svenska arbetskraftsundersökningen (AKU), 2nd quarter 1990 (Apr-Jun) (add. inf. fr. 1989)	52.257	resident population, persons aged 16-64
United Kingdom	National labour force survey, 1989 (Feb-May)	166.463	resident population, all civilian persons
United States	Current Population Survey, March 1990	60.857	resident population, persons aged 15 and over

Table 3: List of Standardised LES Variables (without value labels)

I.	DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND (DB)
DB01	RELATIONSHIP TO REFERENCE PERSON IN THE HOUSEHOLD
DB02	SEX
DB03	AGE
DB04	MARITAL STATUS
DB05	NATIONALITY
DB06	YEARS OF RESIDENCE IN THIS COUNTRY
DB07	COUNTRY OF BIRTH
DB08	ETHNICITY
DB09	REGION
DB10	URBAN/RURAL INDICATOR
DB11	HOUSEHOLD TYPE
DB12	FAMILY TYPE
DB13	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD
DB14	NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD
DB15	NUMBER OF EMPLOYED IN HOUSEHOLD
DB16	NUMBER OF PENSIONERS IN HOUSEHOLD
DB17	USUAL/MAIN ECONOMIC STATUS
II.	WORK STATUS (WS)
WS01	WORK STATUS DURING REFERENCE WEEK
WS02	REASON FOR NOT HAVING WORKED AT ALL THOUGH HAVING A JOB
III.	EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAIN JOB (FJ)
FJ01	COUNTRY OF PLACE OF WORK
FJ02	PROFESSIONAL STATUS/CLASS OF WORKER
FJ03	ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF ESTABLISHMENT/INDUSTRY
FJ04	OCCUPATION
FJ05	SECTOR OF ESTABLISHMENT
FJ06	NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING AT THE LOCAL UNIT OF ESTABLISHMENT
FJ07	REGION OF PLACE OF WORK
FJ08	DURATION OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
FJ09	FULL-TIME/PART-TIME DISTINCTION

FJ10	PERMANENCY OF JOB CONTRACT
FJ11	DURATION OF TEMPORARY JOB OR JOB CONTRACT OF LIMITED DURATION
FJ12	NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK USUALLY WORKED
FJ13	NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK ACTUALLY WORKED
FJ14	MAIN REASON FOR HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED BEING DIFFERENT FROM PERSON'S USUAL HOURS
FJ15	SHIFT WORK
FJ16	EVENING WORK
FJ17	NIGHT WORK
FJ18	SATURDAY WORK
FJ19	SUNDAY WORK
FJ20	WORKING AT HOME
FJ21	LOOKING FOR ANOTHER JOB AND REASONS FOR DOING SO
IV.	INFORMATION ABOUT SECOND JOB (SJ)
SJ01	EXISTENCE OF MORE THAN ONE JOB
SJ02	PROFESSIONAL STATUS/CLASS OF WORKER, 2ND JOB
SJ03	ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF ESTABLISHMENT/INDUSTRY, 2ND JOB
SJ04	OCCUPATION, 2ND JOB
SJ05	SECTOR OF ESTABLISHMENT, 2ND JOB
SJ06	NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED
SJ07	REGULARITY
V.	PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE OF PERSON NOT IN EMPLOYMENT (PE)
PE01	EXPERIENCE OF EMPLOYMENT
PE02	PROFESSIONAL STATUS/CLASS OF WORKER IN LAST JOB
PE03	ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF ESTABLISHMENT/INDUSTRY IN WHICH PERSON LAST WORKED
PE04	OCCUPATION IN LAST JOB
PE05	TIME PASSED SINCE PERSON LAST WORKED
PE06	MAIN REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB
VI.	SEARCH FOR EMPLOYMENT (SE)
SE01	SEEKING EMPLOYMENT FOR PERSON WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT DURING THE REFERENCE WEEK
SE02	TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT SOUGHT
SE03	DURATION OF SEARCH FOR JOB
SE04	MAIN METHOD USED DURING PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS TO FIND A JOB
SE05	WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR PERSON NOT SEEKING EMPLOYMENT
SE06	AVAILABILITY TO START WORKING WITHIN TWO WEEKS
SE07	SITUATION IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PERSON STARTED TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT (OR WAS WAITING FOR NEW JOB TO START)
SE08	REGISTRATION AT A PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
SE09	REASON FOR LOOKING FOR WORK
VII.	SITUATION OF INACTIVE PERSONS (IA)
IA01	SITUATION OF PERSON WHO NEITHER HAS A JOB NOR IS LOOKING FOR ONE
VIII.	EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ET)
ET01	HIGHEST COMPLETED LEVEL OF GENERAL EDUCATION
ET02	HIGHEST COMPLETED LEVEL OF FURTHER EDUCATION OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING
ET03	EDUCATION AND TRAINING RECEIVED DURING PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS
ET04	PURPOSE OF THE TRAINING RECEIVED DURING PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS
ET05	TOTAL LENGTH OF TRAINING
ET06	USUAL NUMBER OF HOURS TRAINING PER WEEK
ET07	AGE WHEN OBTAINED HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION
IX.	SITUATION ONE YEAR BEFORE SURVEY (YA)
YA01	SITUATION WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITY 1 YEAR AGO
YA02	PROFESSIONAL STATUS/CLASS OF WORKER 1 YEAR AGO
YA03	ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF ESTABLISHMENT/INDUSTRY 1 YEAR AGO
YA04	OCCUPATION 1 YEAR AGO
YA05	COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO
YA06	REGION OF RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO
X.	LABOUR FORCE STATUS (LF)
LF01	LABOUR FORCE STATUS
LF02	EMPLOYMENT STATUS
LF03	UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS
LF04	INACTIVITY STATUS
XI.	EARNINGS AND INCOME (EI)
EI01	WAGES/EARNINGS PER HOUR
EI02	TOTAL PERSON EARNINGS
EI03	TOTAL PERSON INCOME
EI04	TOTAL FAMILY (HOUSEHOLD) INCOME
XII.	TECHNICAL ITEMS (TI)
TI01	SERIAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD
TI02	SERIAL NUMBER OF FAMILY
TI03	SERIAL NUMBER OF PERSON
TI04	WEIGHTING FACTOR
TI05	DATE OF INTERVIEW
COUNTRY	COUNTRY IDENTIFIER

Table 4: Codification of Variables on Occupation (FJ04, SJ04, PE04, YA04) and Industry (FJ03, SJ03, PE03, YA03) in LES Micro Data Bases

	Occupational codes	Occupational codification provided through	Industry codes
Austria 91	ISCO88, 4 digits	H. Ganzeboom table	country specific, 2 digits
Czech Republic 94	ISCO88, 3 digits	CSO	NACE/Rev1, 3 digits
Finland 90	ISCO88, 4 digits	CSO	ISIC, 3 digits
France 95	ISCO88, 3 digits	CSO transformation table	NACE/Rev1
Hungary 93	ISCO88, 4 digits	H. Ganzeboom table	NACE/Rev1, 2 digits
Luxembourg 92	ISCO88, 2 digits	CSO	NACE70
Norway 90	ISCO88, 4 digits	H. Ganzeboom table	ISIC, 3 digits
Poland 94	ISCO88, 3 digits	CSO	NACE/Rev1, 2 digits
Slovenia 94	ISCO88, 4 digits	CSO	NACE/Rev1, 2 digits
Spain 93	ISCO88, 3 digits	CSO	NACE/Rev1, 2 digits
Sweden 90	ISCO88, 3 digits	H. Ganzeboom table	ISIC, 4 digits
UK 89	ISCO88, 4 digits	H. Ganzeboom table	NACE70
United States 90	ISCO88, 4 digits	H. Ganzeboom table	country specific, 3 digits

Internet-access to LES:

LES provides a WWW-home-page which is integrated into the home-page of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS).

Address: http://gerosun.syr.edu/lis_part/listintro.htm

The home-page gives a short overview over LIS and LES, lists recent

working papers including abstracts, informs on workshops, introduces into the submission of remote-jobs to LIS/LES - and gives instructions on how to access the FTP-server with additional information.

The FTP-server (post.ceps.lu) provides additional summary information on LIS and on LES, including

the general userpackage and sample data. You can download the files to your local PC using 'BINARY' as transfer options. The files are packed, but software for unpacking them (pkunzip.exe) is supplied as well.

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Debra Hiom & Nicky Ferguson

SOSIG - The Social Science Information Gateway

The Internet can provide an invaluable resource for supporting education and research in the social sciences; it offers access to people, data and resources on a hitherto unparalleled scale. However it is as yet a far from an ideal work environment. The sheer enormity of information available and the corresponding lack of organisation of this information can prove an effective barrier to potential users. The Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG) allows social science researchers and practitioners to discover and easily access relevant high-quality networked resources and services world-wide. The paper will look at the background to the project and the current status of the service.

Introduction

The basic definition of the Internet is a global network of computers that can exchange information. What this actually provides you with is the ability to communicate and exchange information with over 30 million people across the world. It provides a method of communicating with people locally, nationally or internationally in a way that is both fast and economical. The culture of the Internet is still very much one of co-operation and a readiness to share knowledge and expertise with others. Whatever a persons interests or specialisms there will be groups of people who share those interests on the Internet. The Internet also provides access to information resources. The amount of information on the networks has grown exponentially over the last few years. Traditionally academics have shared resources such as working papers, articles, library catalogues,

data archives, etc. and the number of these has grown as publishing information on the networks has become easier. However as more commercial institutions and businesses are becoming involved in the Internet a whole new range of information and services are also appearing. The result of this growth in material is that it is becoming increasingly difficult for network users to successfully find their way around the network and locate information that is of interest to them.

Background to the Project

In 1992 the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) appointed a Networked Information Support Officer to examine the potential for the use of networked information amongst the UK social science community and to encourage further development. There was a perception that the social science community were not reaping the benefit from networked resources in

the same way as their colleagues in the natural and physical sciences. Through holding training sessions and workshops it became clear that researchers found a gulf between being guided around the Internet with the use of documentation and an instructor and having to incorporate these newly acquired skills in their work. Once the mystique of using networks had been dispelled, the path led quickly from excitement to frustration as researchers found it difficult to navigate around the networks and locate material of interest to them. Most academic researchers are unwilling or do not have the time to search the Internet for information. It was decided to try to provide the social science research community with an easy way to find their way around the Internet in order to locate information and data they could use in their work. The project that grew from this idea was the Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG). A pilot service of the gateway became operational in June 1994.

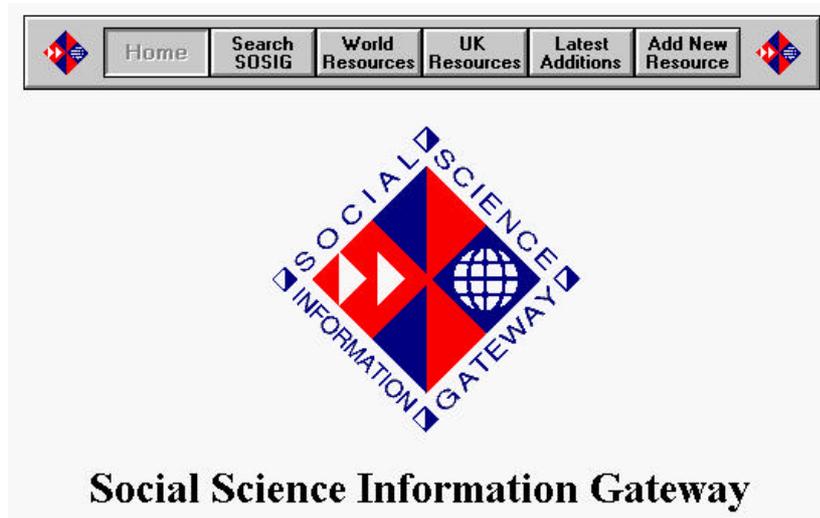
Use of World Wide Web

The basic objective of the project was to set up a "one-stop-shop" for UK social scientists, to connect the user seamlessly to relevant resources regardless of their location. World Wide Web was chosen as the software tool to deliver this solution for various reasons. It provides the consistent easy to use interface that was required. It is almost certainly the fastest growing NIR (Networked Information Retrieval) tool, with development work being carried out in Europe and the United States. It also allows access to many other processes and protocols such as gopher servers, ftp sites, telnet sessions and many more.

Structure of SOSIG

There are over 900 links to social science resources on SOSIG at present. Unlike many other gateways or subject listings, the project tries to maintain a level of quality control. A resource does not appear

Fig. 1: Part of SOSIG-Homepage



on SOSIG until it has undergone the following process.

Collection

A variety of resources are used including:

- **Mailing Lists and Newsgroups:** various lists and newsgroups are scanned for announcements of interesting social science resources, some of these groups are subject related but others are general lists set up specifically to monitor and disseminate information about new network resources.
- **Printed guides and Catalogues:** these often provide a good starting point for identifying resources within a particular subject area.
- **Networked search tools:** there are a number of tools or robots that aim to build indexed catalogues of resources available over the Internet, such as Veronica, Archie and Lycos.
- **Other networked services:** following links from other services on the Internet.

The project also has a number of volunteer LIST'eners. These are generally subject specialists in the social sciences who can advise on the quality of resources. In addition to recommendations from the LIST'eners the project also regularly receives recommendations from the users of the service. A form is available on the web for users to e-mail suggestions and additions to the gateway, these are subject to the same quality checks before they are added to SOSIG.

Filtering

An important role for SOSIG is to filter out "junk" - resources that are of little or no use to our users. Resources are chosen according to a selection criteria that includes areas such as relevance, reliability, stability and currency.

Recording

There is very little meta-data or descriptive information about resources available on the Internet, often no more than a file or direc-

tory name. This can result in users choosing a link or downloading a file, waiting while it transfers to their system (often from the US) only to find it wasn't what they wanted at all. All the resources that appear on SOSIG have been catalogued using a standard pro-forma or template. This template which includes a description of the resource, underlies the search mechanism which is available on SOSIG. A keyword search will provide you with a list of resources that match your criteria, each of which will dynamically link you to the resource described, wherever it is in the world.

Classification

Each resource is classified using the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) scheme. Use of this scheme was agreed with two other national service providers NISS and BUBL to allow for collaboration amongst the projects. Although the UDC underlies the organisation of the resources, a strict hierarchical scheme is not enforced, so if a subject has recently become important enough it can find a place on the top menu. Individual resources can also be cross-classified so that they can be found under several different subject areas. The subject categories can be viewed alphabetically (the default) or according to the UDC.

Developments

SOSIG has recently received funding from the UK Electronic Libraries Programme for two projects. The first is an extension of the SOSIG project to employ a training and documentation officer. The training officer will provide hands-on training, documentation and self paced learning materials specifically tailored for social science librarians, other social science information support staff and users of networked resources in the social sciences. Evaluation of this training and the general effect and usefulness of subject based services will also be undertaken.

ROADS (Resource Organisation and Discovery in Subject based

Services) is a two year collaborative project to design and implement a user-oriented resource discovery system. This will allow users to find and use networked resources (documents and interactive services) of interest to them without leaving their routine working environments. This will build and extend upon the work on resource descriptions already in process on SOSIG. Furthermore the project will implement a system that allows users to search across several different subject based services seamlessly. The system will initially be piloted on the SOSIG service, the OMNI (Organising Medical Networked Information) service and the Electronic Libraries Information service at the UK Office of Library Networking (UKOLN).

The ROADS partners are:

SOSIG Project, University of Bristol; UKOLN, University of Bath; Department of Computer Studies, Loughborough University of Technology; Bunyip Information Systems.

For more information about the ROADS project contact the author or see the URL below.

Access to SOSIG

Users with World Wide Web (WWW) clients such as Mosaic or Netscape can access SOSIG by typing the URL (network address) below:

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

Users without WWW clients can access the service using the Lynx client. This will give you a text only based interface to the service.

Make a telnet call to:

sosig.ac.uk

login as: **sosig**

Further Information

For more information about the ROADS project see:

<http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/roads/>

For more information about SOSIG please contact:

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Michael Quick & Jürgen Schweikart

Computer Cartography in Social Research: Desktop Mapping with Microsoft Excel 7.0

Until the 1980s only a few specialists were able to visualise spatial data in maps. This changed due to the overall diffusion of personal computers together with the development of easy-to-handle mapping software, such as MapInfo. Today we are on the eve of another revolutionary development in computer cartography, as leading software companies such as Lotus and Microsoft begin to include mapping tools in their office programmes. This will lead to a general availability of mapping software on almost every PC in the world. The most remarkable case is the Data Map tool included in the latest version of Microsoft Excel.

Why use maps?

In principle, maps can be used for all spatial data, regardless whether it is qualitative or quantitative data. But using them makes sense primarily in those cases where space is an important dimension of analysis. Where spatial structures are part of the research questions, maps can play an important role in data analysis as well as in the presentation of the results. They have several advantages in comparison to an analysis that is limited to purely statistical methods.

When an indicator is displayed in a map, one information is added to the information of the indicator itself, namely the information *where* this indicator is located. Is the spatial unit big or small, is it situated in the centre or on the periphery, in the North or South, is it neighbored by areas with similar or by areas with very differing values? A map can answer all these questions in a very simple way. And these answers can offer new explanations or raise new questions. This is the reason why maps can be used in all phases of the research process:

- in the initial phase, when research questions are defined;
- in the phase of data analysis, when structures are identified and explained;
- in the final phase, when the results are presented.

Map types

There are various types of maps, depending on the kind of information that is to be given. *Topo-*

graphic maps answer the question „What is Where?“ Their function is to describe all visible features of a defined area as accurate as possible. In social science they are mainly used for presenting the area under investigation and for showing the location of the subareas, e.g. regions or municipalities.

All maps that give selective information can be categorized as *thematic maps*. A further subdivision can be made if the map displays either one or several variables. The most common way of presenting one variable is the *choropleth map* (see Fig. 1). It has the disadvantage that the data have to be classified, but it is very useful as regards showing spatial patterns. Another way of mapping one variable are *diagram maps* (see Fig. 1). They show the data unclassified, but make it harder to identify differences between the areas. Diagram maps can also be used for display-

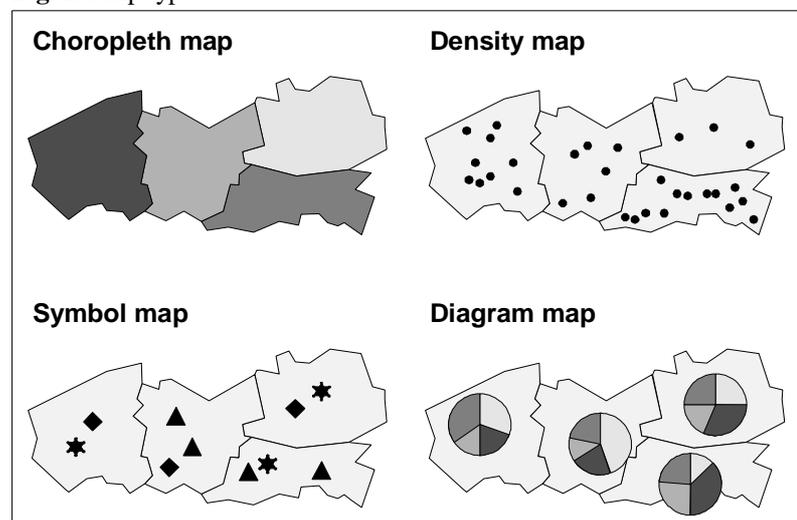
ing several variables in one map. In principle, all diagrams that are known can also be used in a map, but with a view to readability only the most simple types should be used.

Software overview

Programmes of different types can be used for the computer-based production of maps. One differentiates between the following types:

- *Desktop Mapping Software.* These are specialised programmes that integrate all steps necessary to produce a map under one surface, from the data entry to the printing. Widely used examples are the programmes *MapViewer* and *Map-Info*.
- *Geographic Information Systems (GIS)* are larger packages that are used primarily for the storage, administration and analysis of spatial data. The production of thematic maps is a special GIS feature of minor importance. The possibilities within the mapping tools of GIS, like *ARC/INFO*, are therefore limited.
- *Mapping tools integrated into statistical software packages.* The major statistical programmes that are used in social science, such as *SAS*, *SPSS* or *NSDstat*, contain integrated or additive mapping tools. As is the case with GIS the possibili-

Fig. 1: Map types



ties to design and enhance a map are very limited. The use of these tools makes sense only if the data are already stored in the statistical software packages and the maps are used mainly for internal purposes.

In general, the programmes described under Desktop Mapping Software are the most suitable ones for producing cartographically correct and meaningful maps (cf. Olbrich, Quick, Schweikart 1996). Due to developments in the other areas mentioned, however, it may no longer be necessary to acquire a special mapping programme. The new mapping module in the Windows 95 version of the spreadsheet programme Microsoft Excel should particularly be mentioned in this context. As this programme will be widely used in the months to come and is also cartographically very functional, it will be the easiest and simplest way for many social scientists to construct a thematic map.

Microsoft Excel

Starting with the 7.0 version developed for Windows 95, a cartographic module is included in the standard version of this widely used programme.

The starting point for drafting a map is a normal Excel sheet. The first column should contain the names or numbers of the spatial units to be depicted, for example the names of the countries. Naturally only those spatial units can be used for which Excel contains the respective coordinates. The standard equipment contains only few map data sets, including a world map and a map of Europe. In cases where other maps are needed, they have to be acquired from a specialized firm, and this could be rather costly.

The variables to be represented graphically in the map can be inserted into the columns adjacent to the geometrical names. The top row contains the name of the respective variable.

After that part of the sheet which is relevant for the map has been

marked, the menu point INSERT-MAP must be selected. A cross-hair appears requesting the user to draw a frame for the map within the Excel table. Once this is completed, the screen display changes quickly. A complete map appears within the frame of the map, including title and legend, and a window with the Data Map Control window opens up. Naturally the map is not yet ready for print, it still needs to be adjusted to the user's desires. Figure 2 shows the display as it appears at this stage. The Data Map Control window is displayed on the left lower side of the window.

At this point it is not immediately clear how to proceed. The Data Map Control window does not easily reveal how to alter the presentation and the arrangement of the variables. Even the programme's request "*To change data in the map, drag column and format buttons in the box*" is not very helpful, as the terms used, e.g. format buttons or column, are not clear.

It is only the integrated help function that provides an explanation. The term "column" refers to the white box within the Data Map Control window where the presentation and the content of the map are determined by assigning the variables to the forms of graphical representation. The following forms of graphical representation can be

selected:

- *Category Shading*, i.e. choropleth maps;
- *Value Shading*, these are choropleth maps where each filled area represents one single value;
- *Dot Density* maps;
- *Graduated Symbol*, i.e. symbol maps;
- *Pie Chart* maps;
- *Column Chart* maps.

After the form of graphical representation has been selected, the next draft and the lay-out of the map can be worked on directly within the frame of the map via map menus. These appear by pointing on the objects and clicking the right mouse button. It now becomes evident that the programme limits the user's scope of action considerably. Class boundaries of choropleth maps, for example, cannot be defined by the user. The programme provides only two kinds of calculation possibilities. A similar problem exists with regard to colour series, where only the darkest colour can be selected. The rest of the colour series is created by the programme, with each colour series ending with white - a solution that is not very useful from the cartographer's point of view. Similar limitations also exist where other forms of graphical representation or the lay-out are concerned. The frames surrounding the legends and the title, for example, cannot be

Fig. 2: Data Map Control window within Microsoft Excel

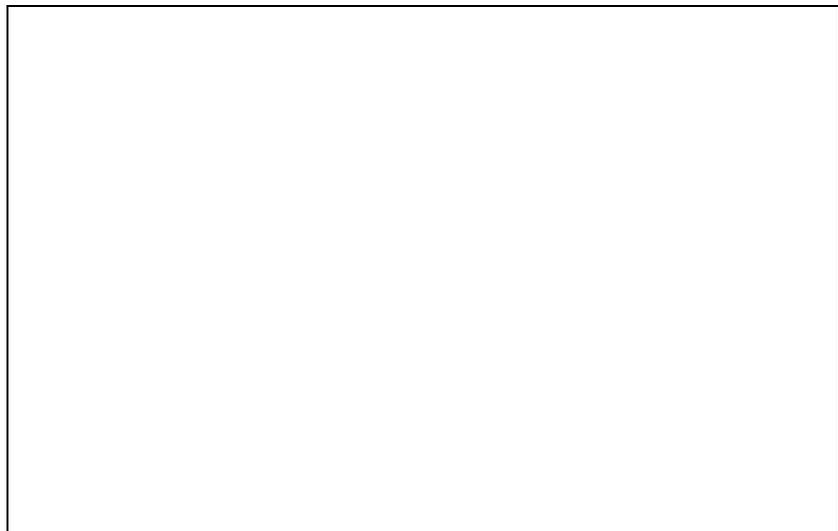
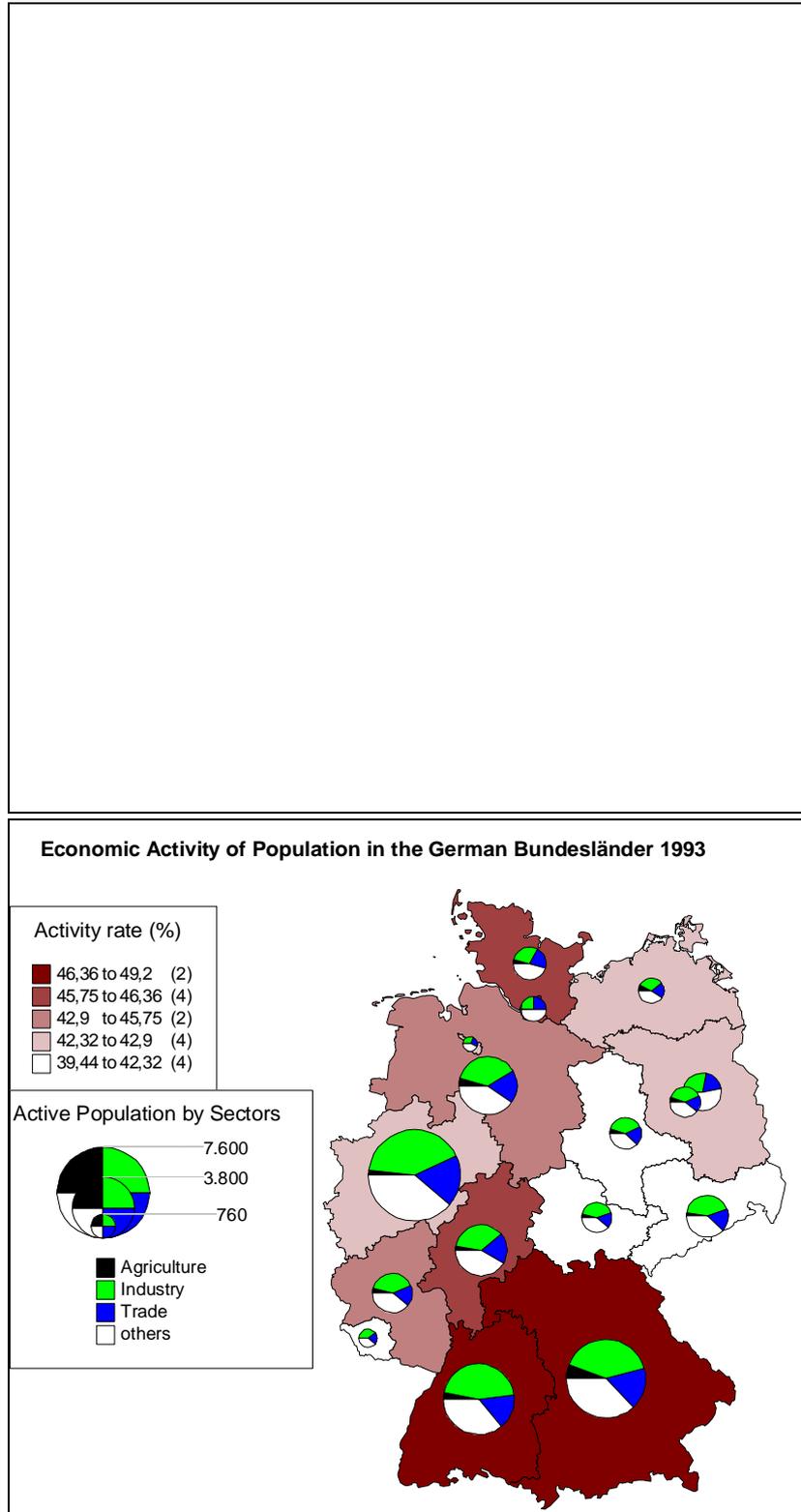


Fig. 3: Two maps created with Microsoft Excel

removed. The title frame can be avoided by leaving out the title altogether and by entering a free text instead (see Fig. 3). Another possibility of adding text is the insertion of the data values or the area names into the map.

Two further interesting functions of the programme should be mentioned here. First, the map data sets provided do not only contain border lines, but also other geometric data, such as motorways, airports and cities. Second, *Custom Pin Maps*

that can be placed over the completed map are another interesting feature of the programme. On Pin Maps, any one symbol can be positioned anywhere on the map. There are no restrictions as to how many Pin Maps can be defined and placed over each other.

Conclusion

At this point the existing version of the Data Map tool by Microsoft Excel is definitely inferior to the specialized Desktop Mapping programmes. Nevertheless, due to the fact that it is widely used, this tool will have a large number of users who will be able to produce rather useful provisional maps. The possibilities of producing ready-to-print and cartographically correct maps, however, are considerably limited unless the map is subsequently improved by using a graphic software such as CorelDraw.

Unfortunately, it is very likely that users who are not familiar with cartography will create maps with Excel that will not be very meaningful and might even be cartographically incorrect. Hopefully future versions of the programme will lead the user in a logically more consistent way on the "right" path. However, one cannot expect future versions to be more functional and to leave the user a greater scope of action regarding the layout. On the one hand, this would contradict the programme's philosophy; on the other, the developers of the programme will probably be interested in continuing to sell their specialized programme Map-Info, which is recommended in the Excel online help.

Further reading

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Jean Charles Lagree

Youth and Generation in Europe

ESA Research Network

The situation of the sociological study of youth is quite uneven in Europe. In some countries, the sociology of youth is well established, well recognized by the academic authorities and has developed its own social milieu. In others, this sociology is deprived of any kind of legitimacy and is forced to make its way under the umbrella of a more theoretical approach, such as sociology of life course, life cycle, generation etc. Finally, in some countries, sociology of youth is still embryonic and almost nonexistent.

But beyond this uneven development and these various forms, more striking still is the cleavage and the lack of contacts and communication between researchers who are supposed to share the same interests, focus on the same population and, perhaps, raise the same set of questions. A scientific community of youth sociologists exists only at the national level and not, as yet, at the European level. A research network on Youth and Generation in Europe would bring together various cultural traditions of research and make easier the confrontation of different theoretical backgrounds. Hence, the participants in a European research Network focusing on Youth and Generation in Europe will have two main objectives:

- to learn to work together
- to initiate, encourage and support research in the sociology of youth at the European level.

Already various networks exist:

(1) The ISA's Research Committee *Sociology of Youth*. This research committee is organized on a regional basis. The ESA network Youth and Generation in Europe will lean on the activities and members of this ISA research committee.

(2) The ESA Youth and Generation in Europe Network will be secant to other various initiatives such as the

Nordic Youth Research Association from which several researchers have already expressed interest in the ESA Network. Since, the ESA Youth and Generation in Europe Network want to be a place of conjunction, discussion, collaboration between researchers from different cultural backgrounds, the same kind of connection will be searched with any network or association of Youth sociologists based in the South of Europe or in the Eastern countries.

(3) A group of European sociologists of youth already have organized themselves into a network called *CYRCE* (Circle for Youth Research Cooperation in Europe). *CYRCE* is a non-profit association for the promotion of research, policy and practice in the field of childhood and youth in Europe. Its actual membership consists of 13 established academics, administrators, policymakers and researchers from 9 European countries, who look back to long standing involvement in transnational youth-related research and policy endeavors.

This year, *CYRCE* has edited the first volume of a new series dedicated to promote European networks of youth specialists (*The Puzzle of Integration: European Yearbook on Youth Policy and Research*, vol. 1, 1995, Berlin, W. de Gruyter). Most of *CYRCE* members will take part in the *ESA Youth-Generation* network.

(4) *IARD*, a leading non-profit research institute operation in the field of youth research, has set up *TREU* (Task force for Research in Europe), its own research and networking unit devoted to monitoring European research activities as well as to setting up a long term scientific network of researchers and institutions. *TREU* will join the *ESA Youth Generation* network.

(5) Last but not least, as part of the Budapest Conference, a two-day working group was organized on the theme *Generational Change in Postwar Europe*. On that occasion, during informal discussions, several researchers expressed their interest in a following up more focused on the Youth problematic. Some of them are already enlisted among those who would like to join such a European network.

What does the Youth and Generation in Europe plan to do?

There is an obvious answer to this question: Networking. In my view, in order to face up to challenges coming from the European Union and the underlying process of building up a European Community of Social Scientists, the most important and urgent priority is to learn to work together. The most useful thing to do is to find out similarities and differences between professional cultures of European social scientists. Not only differences of theoretical framework, or concepts and the use of varying methodologies but also traditions and institutional work conditions. Research Committees and Workshops during congresses are good tools to act in that direction. But, in order to be fruitful, the solemnity of such great events has to be sustained by a more daily activity, which can take several directions:

- an exchange of information: with Internet (WWW),
- an electronic discussion list,
- the organization of bi- or tri-lateral seminars (two day seminars with 2 or 3 countries),
- to encourage and foster collective application to the DGXXII,
- an annual seminar.

In what ways does the topic deal with European issues ?

I see at least two ways to tackle this question:

(1) From the viewpoint of the Task Force - the researchers. As mentioned above, it seems that we are already in the process of building up an European Community of

social scientists. Better to recognize this rather than to ignore it. A network can sustain this process, providing for willing researchers a better knowledge of their surroundings.

(2) As far as the scientific topic is concerned it would be easy to point out the Youth Effect upon the ongoing process of European Integration. Willingly or not, do young people support the process of European Integration? How are they part of the process of the construction of a European identity? Are differ-

ences between European youth(s) increasing or decreasing?

It is little point in saying that the Sociology of Youth is short of comparative investigations. If this ESA network is able to initiate more comparative and collaborative research, that already will be a great achievement, but, at its starting point, all comparative undertaking has to make clear its purpose. Here, it is to know a little bit more about the situation and the participation of Young People in the process of European Integration.

Contact:

Researchers interested in such a network are invited to contact me at the following address:

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Franz Traxler

Industrial Relations, Labour Market Institutions and Employment

ESA Research Network

A variety of disciplines and perspectives refer to the labour market and to employment. This research network will link these subjects with industrial relations, especially with regard to two main issues:

First, industrial relations can be understood as institutions which govern the labour market and employment. While standard economics tend to regard the labour market as a mechanism of pure arm's-length exchange relations, the key assumption of sociology is that the labour market and employment are embedded in social structures; and industrial relations represent a particularly important institutional

element of this social structure. In this context, the research will concentrate on "labour-market embeddedness", its variations across countries and its changes over time. This includes the question of the effect which industrial relations have on labour market performance and employment structures.

Second, changes in the labour market and employment in turn exert pressures for adjustment on industrial relations institutions. The globalization of markets, European integration and the accompanying changes in both the labour market and employment pose a serious threat to established industrial-

relations institutions. The way in which distinct institutions cope with this challenge is another question addressed by this research network.

The more general problems behind the two main issues are whether and how industrial relations - which are still nation-centred - can stand in an economy which has increasingly become both globalized and European. In line with this, special emphasis will be placed on a cross-national perspective.

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Gabriella Laxaridis & Eleni Nina-Pazarzi

Regional Network on Southern European Communities

ESA Research Network

The aim of the network is to facilitate sociological research in southern Europe and of southern European Communities abroad and to encourage communication and cooperation between sociologists and between sociologists and other social scientists interested in the region.

The network has three foci, the selection of which is based on the

research areas of most colleagues who expressed an interest in participating in this network:

- Migration, Ethnicity, Citizenship and Nationality, Multiculturalism, New Racisms and Xenophobia, Nationalism, New Social Identities, Social Exclusion;
- Gender Relations and Sexuality;

- Public Policy (including Social Policy and the Welfare State, Environmental Policy, Regional Policy, Agricultural and Industrial Development Policies).

Each area will shortly have a sub-coordinator, who, in collaboration with the main coordinators of the network, will be responsible for:

- a) the organisation of small workshops and seminars and mini-conferences at regular intervals (once a year);

b) the compilation and dissemination of information (via the Internet) to the members of the network;

c) the establishment of collaborative research links;

d) the organisation of a meeting of all members of the network at the ESA conference.

The main reasons for establishing this network are the following: The interest expressed to us by many colleagues for the creation of such a network and for the need of a forum of this sort which will facilitate co-operation among researchers (scholars) in southern European countries and abroad. Until now, Southern Europe has been under-represented both in terms of active

participation in congresses and conferences and in terms of cross-national comparative research proposals seeking funding from prestigious funding bodies in Europe and elsewhere. This is partly due to lack of communication facilities/fora and partly due to inertia - both of which we will try to overcome via the activities of this network. The network will also give an opportunity for further activities within the auspices of the European Sociological Association.

The network was launched at the Conference *Nation and Migration in Southern Europe* organised by Prof. F. Anthias and Dr. G. Lazaridis and held on 18-20 De-

cember 1995 at the University of Greenwich. It now has more than 100 participants.

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Comparative Research on Europe (RENCORE)

ESA Research Network

Following a successful meeting of a working group at the European Sociological Association's Budapest conference in September 1995, it has been resolved to establish under the auspices of the ESA a network on methods of comparative research on Europe. The aim of the network is to encourage and enhance comparative empirical research of individual, national and institutional level data from the states of Western, Central and Eastern Europe. This aim will be met through the following objectives:

1. The support and promotion of cross-national European research, both quantitative and qualitative.
2. The development of comparable indicators for comparative research.
3. The enhancement of information exchange between those who create and use cross-national datasets.
4. The refinement of methods for the analysis of data obtained from a number of European countries. The network will act as a forum and channel for discussion and communication between those involved in cross-national European research,

either as data collectors or as data analysts.

The activities of the network will include:

- a. The organisation of meetings and workshops on topics related to comparative empirical research.

These will be held about once a year. The first workshop will be on the subject of "Asking questions across Europe" and will be concerned with formulating survey questions to yield answers which permit cross-national comparisons. It is proposed to hold this first meeting in October 1996. The second meeting will be held at the 1997 European Sociological Association's conference (venue yet to be decided).

- b. The establishment of an email discussion list and WWW page. The email list will enable discussions between those in the network, and the WWW page will describe the network members, their interests and their research activities.

- c. The organisation of scientific visits between members of the network.

A directory of opportunities for research visits (e.g. for sabbaticals, post-doctoral studies, exchanges and short visits) will be compiled. The directory will also list external sources of funding to support visits.

The network will be administered by a small Executive Committee who will stand for election every two years (at the ESA meeting). The network will be established by a small ad-hoc Committee consisting of Loek Halman (Netherlands), Peter Mohler (Germany), and Nigel Gilbert (UK). Membership of the network will initially be free, although a subscription may be levied once the network is well established. Potential members should write (or email) their application for membership to Nigel Gilbert, at the address below, explaining their involvement in comparative European research and listing relevant publications. Applications should include a full mail address, an email address, and telephone and fax numbers. All those who are engaged in European comparative research, wherever they may be working, are welcome to apply for membership of the Network.

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Other New ESA Research Networks

Sociology of Education

The goals of the network are to proceed in the establishment of research subgroups that could undertake comparative research in educational topics. Some members already have been working in the direction of comparative educational research. Other members work on curricula research and in alienation and even violent phenomena in education. In addition, cultural capital and inequalities in education and university structure are topics of great importance to members of the network. Last but not least, some of our members are interested in the epistemological aspect of the meaning of education itself.

The network will focus in the future on organising workshops related to the above matters as well as sessions in international conferences such as the "Cultural Crossroads" conference to be held in July 1996 at Tampere, Finland.

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Gender Relations in the Labour Market and the Welfare State

The importance of employment and labour market for the life chances of the members in the European nation states and in the developing common labour market of the European Union is undisputed. The specific and discriminated situation of women is an important reason to study the complex interrelation of the societal and labour market situation (not only) of women.

Workshops on "Gender Relations and the Labour Market" were organized at both the First and the Second European Conferences of

Sociology and both times the workshops attracted great interest.

Future Activities of the Network:

- Initiating and intensifying comparative research with the aims of clarifying theoretical explanations and providing more empirical based material for political strategies to improve women's disadvantaged / discriminated situation in the emerging European labour market;
- Establishing research groups and reinforcing contacts between researchers;
- Organizing smaller research centered meetings and conferences.

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Economic Sociology

The basic aim of this Research Network is to strengthen the cooperation between economic sociologists in Europe; it may also have links to the International Sociological Association's Economy and Society group, to members of the ASA and to SASE. Primary communication will be through E-mail.

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Sociology of Communications and Media Research

The interests of this research network will be in fostering research and debate about the social role of communications, information and media in the constitution of the

public sphere, and in the sociological analysis of the role of communications in contemporary social change.

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Franz Rothenbacher

European Family Indicators

As we announced in the summer issue 1995 of the EURODATA Newsletter, we will publish a table on social indicators from a special field of social sciences in each spring edition. For this newsletter we chose the topic family and population.

The family is experiencing important changes in all European societies. In Europe, the population will decline until about 2020 in absolute terms, leaving immigration out of consideration. The age structure is changing slowly but moving unstopably towards a higher absolute and relative share of elderly people. Due to birth rates below replacement in most European countries at present, the future active population will be smaller than today once these small birth cohorts will enter the labour force. All these demographic shifts will have direct effects as well as side-effects on the labour market and the systems of social protection, especially in the fields of old age pensions and health protection.

The family as a microcosm is also changing as a result of an increase in birth control, rising female educational participation and therefore rising female work participation. Effects of these societal developments on the family lead to a decline in family size, a rise in the share of childless couples, an older age at first marriage and subsequently an older age of the mother at first birth. The age difference between the sexes at first marriage is decreasing, as is the difference between the age of women at first marriage and the age of women at the birth of their first child. In the Nordic countries this age difference has become negative due to the new development of women giving birth to the first child before marriage. Marriage as legal institution has not been questioned in most European countries (with the exception of the Nordic countries). Remaining unmarried has some tradition in Western Europe, and only the birth cohorts of the 1920s and 1930s married nearly universally. The post-

1945 birth cohorts resumed - albeit for different reasons - the older European marriage pattern: older age at marriage and high proportion of people remaining single.

The changes in family structures and the emergence of new family types are largely due to the - in historical terms - exponential rise in the number of divorces. However, there are marked differences regarding the increase in divorce rates in Europe, and there is a growing cleavage between north and south in this respect. A consequence of the rise in divorces is a rise in the number of one-parent families (but divorce is not the only - if the most important - factor). In addition, the striking differences between divorce rates in Europe lead to equally strong differences regarding the frequency of one-parent families. A new and increasing phenomenon is the fact that remarriage rates of divorced have declined in all European countries since 1945, whereas one would expect an increase in remarriages when divorces increase. Divorced men are generally more likely to remarry than divorced women. Remarriages are still frequent in some southern European countries as Italy, Portugal and Greece, where marriage is still highly institutionalized.

Another rather recent development which sometimes is said to jeopardize or substitute marriage is the cohabitation of non-married couples. A strong north-south-divide exists in this respect. Whereas in the Nordic countries cohabitation can be a substitute for marriage, cohabitation in most other European countries - if it exists at all - is rather a temporary arrangement preceding marriage. It is especially popular with young adults between

about 15 to 35 years and with persons who are divorced.

Another form of living has increased tremendously in the last few decades, namely living alone (in a one-person-household). This form of living is most popular with the younger agegroups under 35 years (more with young men than with young women) and with the elderly (mainly women).

One of the most important changes affecting the family is the growing labour force participation of women, the dual career family. It is an important factor because female labour force participation has several preconditions as well as consequences. „Reconciliation of work and family life“ requires child care institutions on the one hand and family-friendly work arrangements on the other hand. Thus, the higher the share of part-time work is (it must be pointed out that the overwhelming majority of part-time work is taken on by women in all European countries), the higher is the total female activity rate in the age group 15-64. The big exception with respect to this regularity are the Netherlands, where the part-time work rate is the highest in Europe (also regarding men), but the total activity rate of women is moderate. Countries with the highest shares of part-time work - mainly the Nordic countries, but also the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - have in general a very high share (over 30% of the total labour force) of public sector employment (with the exception of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands). Thus, especially in the Nordic countries, the state takes an active role in creating family-friendly work arrangements.

Franz Rothenbacher is a sociologist at the EURODATA Research Archive at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) and co-editor of this newsletter.

Notes and Abbreviations in the Following Table:

CoE Council of Europe, Strasbourg. DEMTSDB Demographic Time Series Data Base, EURODATA, MZES. EUROSTAT Statistical Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris. A 1994; B 1993; C 1992; D 1991; E 1990; F 1989; G 1988; H 1987; I 1986; J 1985; K 1984; L 1983; M 1982; N 1981; O 1980; P 1979; Q former „West Germany“; R Great Britain; S England and Wales.

	Source	Dim.	Year	A	B	CH	D	DK
Population movement								
<i>Fertility</i>								
Total Period Fertility Rate (TPFR)	CoE	N	1994	1.45	1.62 ^E	1.49	1.34 ^Q	1.81
Cohort Fertility Rate of females born 1943-1963 (CFR)	CoE	N	1993	1.60 ^E	1.76 ^E	1.65 ^E	1.57 ^{CQ}	1.83
Crude Birth Rate (CBR)	CoE	N	1994	11.5	12.0 ^B	11.9	9.8 ^B	13.4
Mean age of women at birth of first child	CoE	Years	1994	25.9	26.4 ^D	28.3	27.6 ^B	27.2 ^B
Mean age of women at birth of any child	CoE	Years	1994	27.8	28.0 ^D	29.6	28.9 ^B	28.9 ^B
Age difference all/first births of women	DEMTSDB	Years	1990	1.0	1.5	1.4	0.7 ^Q	2.1
Age difference first birth/ first marriage	DEMTSDB	Years	1990	1.0	1.8	0.6	1.0 ^Q	-1.2
<i>Legitimacy/Illegitimacy</i>								
Live births out-of-wedlock per 10,000 unmarried women 15-44	DEMTSDB	N	1990	215	153 ^F	71	98 ^{HQ}	456
Live births in-wedlock per 10,000 married women 15-44	DEMTSDB	N	1990	782	835 ^F	1,000	860 ^H	697
Live births out-of-wedlock (%)	CoE	%	1994	26.8	11.6 ^E	6.4	11.9 ^{BQ}	46.8 ^B
<i>Nuptiality</i>								
Women never married 45-54 in % of all women 45-54	DEMTSDB	%	1990/91	7.5	5.1	8.7	5.8 ^H	5.0
Men married 20-24 (%)	DEMTSDB	%	1990/91	10.9	14.9	8.3	8.6 ^H	4.8
Women married 20-24 (%)	DEMTSDB	%	1990/91	24.0	33.3	20.3	20.3 ^H	11.5
Total First Marriage Rate (TFMR)	CoE	N	1994	0.56	0.61 ^B	0.66	0.61 ^{BQ}	0.60 ^B
Mean age of men at first marriage	DEMTSDB	Years	1990	27.3	26.7	29.3	28.4 ^Q	30.2
Mean age of women at first marriage	CoE	Years	1994	26.3	25.3 ^B	27.8	26.9 ^B	28.7 ^B
Age difference first marriage men/women	DEMTSDB	Years	1990	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.5 ^Q	2.6
Age diff. at all marriages/first marriage - men	DEMTSDB	Years	1990	2.9	2.7	2.7	3.0 ^Q	3.4
- women	DEMTSDB	Years	1990	2.2	2.3	1.8	2.5 ^Q	3.2
<i>Divortiality</i>								
Crude Divorce Rate (CDR)	CoE	N	1994	2.1	2.1 ^B	2.2	1.9 ^{CQ}	2.5 ^B
Total Divorce Rate (TDR)	CoE	N	1994	0.37	0.33 ^B	0.38	0.33 ^{BQ}	0.42 ^B
<i>Family rebuilding</i>								
Remarriage rate divorced men	DEMTSDB	N	1990/91	54.1	62.8	62.1	69.3 ^H	46.6
Remarriage rate divorced women	DEMTSDB	N	1990/91	37.0	54.8	37.4	51.0 ^H	37.2
Remarriage rate widowed men	DEMTSDB	N	1990/91	3.1	7.9	11.1	12.1 ^H	7.6
Remarriage rate widowed women	DEMTSDB	N	1990/91	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.1 ^H	2.4
Population structure								
Dependency ratio 65+ of 0-14	CoE	%	1.1.1995	84.4	87.4	83.4	92.9	88.6
Population 0-14 in % of total population	CoE	%	1.1.1995	17.8	18.0	17.6	16.4	17.3
Proportion widowed women/men 65+	DEMTSDB	N	1990/91	6,281	4,391	4,791	6,225 ^H	3,843
Household structures								
<i>Households</i>								
Private households (1,000)	EUROSTAT	1000	1990/91	3,013	3,953	2,842	35,256	2,274
Persons in institutional households (%)	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	1.7	1.3	3.5	0.4	1.6
Family househ. in % of private househ.	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	67.7	68.5	64.2	62.3	61.9
Mean private household size	EUROSTAT	N	1990/91	2.54	2.49	2.33 ^E	2.25 ^Q	2.25
Private hhs by number of hh members	EUROSTAT							
1	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	29.7	23.2 ^N	32.4	35.1 ^{DQ}	34.6 ^D
2	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	27.8	29.7 ^N	31.7	30.5 ^{DQ}	32.8 ^D
3	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	17.7	20.0 ^N	14.9	16.7 ^{DQ}	14.8 ^D
4	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	14.9	15.7 ^N	14.5	12.7 ^{DQ}	12.9 ^D
5+ persons	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	9.9	11.4 ^N	6.5	5.3 ^{DQ}	4.9 ^D
<i>Household types</i>								
<i>One-family households</i>	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	65.2	67.7	63.9	60.1	58.7
Couples without children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	21.9	22.9	26.7	23.3	26.6
Couples with children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	35.3	35.7	32.1	30.5	26.3
Single father with children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	1.2	1.8	0.8	1.2	0.9
Single mother with children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	6.8	7.3	4.3	5.1	4.9
<i>Two+ family households</i>	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	2.5	0.8	0.2	2.2	3.2
Extended family households	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	...	6.0	...	1.9*	...
Family households with 3+ generations	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	...	...	...	1.9 ^{D*}	...

	E	F	GR	I	IRL	L	N	NL	P	S	SF	UK
	1.22	1.65	1.34	1.33 ^C	1.86	1.72	1.87	1.57 ^B	1.44	1.88	1.85	1.76 ^B
	1.53 ^C	1.43 ^C	...	1.57 ^C	...	1.64	2.02	1.86 ^E	...	1.90	1.81	1.45
	9.7	12.2	9.8	9.4 ^B	13.4	13.5	13.9	12.7	11.0	12.8	12.8	13.1 ^B
	27.2 ^C	27.4 ^C	26.1	27.4 ^B	26.6 ^B	...	26.3	28.3 ^B	25.4	27.0 ^B	27.4	26.2 ^B
	29.3 ^C	28.7 ^B	27.6	29.3 ^C	29.8 ^B	28.2	28.7	29.8 ^B	27.6	28.8 ^B	29.5	28.1 ^B
	2.4	1.3	1.8	2.2	3.3	1.4	2.5	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	0.4
	2.4 ^F	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.0	1.1	-0.7	1.7	0.5	-1.3	0.3	3.0 ^F
	74 ^N	363	34 ^N	59 ^N	204	...	461	133	190 ^N	557	289	381
	1,121 ^N	831	1,044 ^N	815 ^N	1,167	...	891	951	1,047 ^N	933	932	875
	10.5 ^C	34.9 ^C	2.9	7.3 ^B	19.5 ^B	12.7	45.9	13.1 ^B	17.8	50.4 ^B	31.3	31.8 ^B
	10.1 ^N	7.2	6.7 ^N	9.7 ^N	10.2	...	5.4	5.2	6.9	8.7	9.6	5.0 ^S
	18.1 ^N	8.5	13.1	12.3	6.1	...	5.2	7.4	18.2	4.1	6.8	11.1 ^S
	39.7 ^N	21.0	52.0	40.5 ^N	13.7	...	14.4	20.2	36.6	11.1	15.4	22.9 ^S
	0.66 ^C	0.50 ^B	0.79 ^B	0.67 ^C	0.67 ^D	0.60	0.49 ^D	0.60 ^B	0.78	0.50 ^C	0.60	0.57 ^B
	27.1 ^F	27.8	28.2	28.5	28.3	27.3	28.8	28.2	26.2	30.2	28.5	25.8 ^F
	25.9 ^C	26.4 ^B	25.1	26.1 ^C	26.6 ^D	26.4	26.9 ^B	26.9 ^B	24.8	28.3 ^B	27.3	26.2 ^B
	3.2 ^F	2.1	4.4	2.9	2.0	1.9	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.6	2.0	1.9 ^F
	0.9 ^F	2.5	0.4	0.8	0.3	2.7	...	2.5	1.7	2.9	2.5	1.9 ^F
	1.6 ^F	2.1	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.9	...	2.1	1.0	2.6	2.1	1.7 ^F
	0.7 ^B	1.9 ^D	0.7 ^B	0.4 ^B	2.1 ^C	1.7	2.5	2.0 ^B	1.4	2.5	2.7	3.8 ^B
	...	0.33 ^C	0.12 ^B	0.07 ^B	...	0.33	0.40 ^D	0.30 ^B	...	0.48	0.47	0.44 ^B
	52.4	52.0	126.5	104.7 ^N	...	84.8	30.9	57.7	152.8	33.6	29.6	72.3
	24.5	34.0	51.7	40.0 ^N	...	62.1	23.5	42.4	45.1	22.7	21.5	52.1
	5.6	7.3	10.5	8.9 ^N	3.2	9.4	4.1	8.4	13.7	4.4	8.3	12.4
	0.7	1.3	1.3	0.9 ^N	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.4	1.8	0.7	1.5	2.9
	89.0	76.3	89.2	105.5	45.2	75.9	82.3	71.3	80.2	92.6	74.0	81.0
	16.8	19.6	17.1	15.3	25.3	18.3	19.4	18.4	18.0	18.9	19.1	19.5
	4,020 ^N	5,238	4,730	4,436 ^N	3,881	5,158	4,246	4,685	4,054	4,389	5,553	4,102
	11,836	21,542	3,204	19,909	1,029	145	1,751	6,162	3,146	3,830	2,037	22,422
	0.6	2.2	2.4	0.8	2.6	1.6	1.0	1.8	0.6	4.7	1.4	1.4
	83.1	70.8	78.9	76.3	72.9	69.1	61.7	62.3	83.4	56.0	62.0	70.0
	3.27	2.57 ^E	3.12	2.83	3.34	2.61	2.40 ^E	2.40	3.12	2.14 ^E	2.42 ^E	2.48
	10.2 ^N	27.1	14.6 ^N	20.2	20.2	20.7 ^N	34.3	29.2 ^F	13.0 ^N	39.6	31.7	26.5
	21.4 ^N	29.6	24.7 ^N	23.9	21.2	28.4 ^N	26.3	31.8 ^F	23.5 ^N	31.1	29.4	33.3
	19.8 ^N	17.7	20.2 ^N	23.0	15.3	21.2 ^N	15.2	14.3 ^F	22.9 ^N	12.3	16.3	16.2
	22.2 ^N	15.7	24.0	22.9	16.6	17.5 ^N	16.0	17.2	20.0 ^N	11.8	14.8	15.5
	26.4 ^N	9.9	16.5 ^N	10.0	26.7	12.2 ^N	8.3	7.6	20.7 ^N	5.2	7.8	8.5
	82.0	70.2	...	74.6	72.3	67.5	56.1	62.3	79.4	...	60.9	69.1
	17.9	24.9	23.8	19.4	13.7	21.2	17.1	22.5	22.7	30.3	30.6	27.2
	55.8	38.1	49.1	46.7	47.9	38.4	30.8	33.5	49.9	21.8	26.2	32.9
	1.1	1.0	1.2	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.5	0.9	0.6	0.5	1.2
	7.1	6.1	4.8	6.5	8.8	6.4	6.9	4.8	5.9	3.3	3.6	7.7
	1.1	0.6	...	1.7	0.7	1.5	5.6	0.0	3.9	...	1.2	0.9
	14.3 ^N	5.0	15.0	5.0	12.9	10.2	...	3.0	12.7	...	...	4.9

... continued on page 22

	Source	Dim.	Year	A	B	CH	D	DK
Family structure								
Families total (1,000)	EUROSTAT	N	1990/91	2,145	2,740	1,830	22,032	1,389
Families without children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	33.1	33.9	41.9	38.1	52.8
<i>Families with children</i>	EUROSTAT	N	1990/91	1,434	1,813	1,064	13,638	655
Couples with children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	53.9	52.1	50.1	50.4	38.7
1 child	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	22.6	22.4	19.9	23.6	17.5
2 children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	21.3	20.0	21.7	20.2	16.5
3 children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	7.4	7.0	6.7	5.1	3.9
4+ children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	2.6	2.8	1.8	1.5	0.8
<i>Single mothers with children (1,000)</i>	EUROSTAT	N	1990/91	238	302	124	2,146	102
<i>Single mothers with children</i>	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	11.1	11.0	6.9	9.7	7.3
1 child	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	1.3	2.1	0.9	1.3	0.9
2 children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.2
3 children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
4+ children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Single fathers with children (1000)</i>	EUROSTAT	N	1990/91	41	83	23	394	16
<i>Single fathers with children</i>	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	1.9	3.0	1.3	1.8	1.2
1 child	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	1.3	2.1	0.9	1.3	0.9
2 children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.2
3 children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
4+ children	EUROSTAT	%	1990/91	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cohabitation								
Cohabiting women in age groups (in % of all women in unions)								
16-19	CoE	%	1985	45 ^F	...	38 ^O	45 ^{GQ}	88
20-24	CoE	%	1985	21 ^F	...	23 ^O	...	75
25-29	CoE	%	1985	8 ^F	...	8 ^O	11 ^{GQ}	41
30-34	CoE	%	1985	4 ^F	...	4 ^O	...	20
35-37	CoE	%	1985	3 ^F	...	3 ^O	3 ^{GQ}	10
40+	CoE	%	1985	2 ^F	...	2 ^O	...	7
Household amenities								
% Households refrigerator	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	96.0	...
% Households deep-freeze	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	48.8	89.0
% Households dishwasher	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	23.5	25.0
% Households microwave oven	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	...	5.0
% Households washing machine	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	82.5	66.0
% Households car	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	65.3	62.0
% Households telephone	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	88.1	94.0
% Households music-system (Hi-Fi)	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	...	78.0
% Households colour TV	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	73.3	86.0
% Households video recorder	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	6.8	21.0
% Households home computer	EUROSTAT	%	1988	...	...	...	...	9.0
Female work participation								
Global activity rate (female labour force in % of OECD total labour force)		%	1993	42.0	42.3	38.3	43.0	46.7
Female activity rate 15-64	OECD	%	1993	58.5	53.9	57.9	60.7	78.3
Part-time work (both sexes; % of all employed)	EUROSTAT	%	1993	...	12.8	...	15.1	23.3
Government employment as % of total employment	OECD	%	1993	21.8	19.3 ^C	12.0	14.9	31.8
Female unemployment as % of female labour force	OECD	%	1993	4.5	16.8	4.9	10.4	11.1
Economic macro indicators								
GDP per capita at current prices and current PPPs	OECD	US-\$	1993	19,118	19,510	23,189	18,506	19,150
Total outlays of government as % of GDP	OECD	%	1993	53.4	57.0	36.7	49.1	63.8
Social security transfers as % of GDP	OECD	%	1993	21.4	24.5	17.5	15.8	20.5

E	F	GR	I	IRL	L	N	NL	P	S	SF	UK
9,700	15,391	2,527	15,538	758	102	1,116	3,838	2,764	2,217	1,364	15,981
21.9	35.7	30.1	26.5	19.2	31.8	46.5	36.1	28.8	53.1	36.0	39.2
7,578	9,899	1,764	11,415	613	70	597	2,445	1,937	1,040	874	9,709
68.1	53.9	62.1	61.6	65.9	56.1	40.7	53.7	60.9	38.5	51.6	47.2
22.4	21.4	23.5	26.0	15.5	24.6	16.4	18.5	26.6	15.5	20.9	18.3
28.0	20.6	29.6	25.7	20.1	22.8	17.1	24.5	23.7	16.1	21.2	20.0
11.9	8.5	7.2	7.7	15.2	6.9	5.9	8.1	6.7	5.5	7.4	6.6
5.8	3.5	1.8	2.3	14.9	1.8	1.3	2.6	3.8	1.4	2.2	2.3
837	1,369	155	1,398	94	10	121	296	219	160	145	1,864
8.6	8.9	6.1	9.0	12.4	9.6	10.8	7.7	7.9	7.2	10.6	11.7
0.8	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.8	...	1.8	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.3
0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.6	...	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	...	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	...	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
136	233	38	442	19	3	22	92	35	28	24	296
1.4	1.5	1.5	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.4	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.9
0.8	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.8	...	1.8	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.3
0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.6	...	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	...	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	...	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
...	...	...	...	...	...	83 ^H	59 ^I	...	93	75	42 ^{IR}
...	36 ^I	...	...	...	...	59 ^H	37 ^I	...	78	50	24 ^{IR}
...	14 ^I	...	...	...	...	23 ^H	16 ^I	...	48	25	10 ^{IR}
...	10 ^I	...	...	...	...	8 ^H	7 ^I	...	28	12	7 ^{IR}
...	6 ^I	...	...	...	...	5 ^H	4 ^I	...	17	7	4 ^{IR}
...	5 ^I	...	...	...	...	5 ^H	3 ^I	...	12	7	4 ^{IR}
...	...	...	94.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	44.1	3.2	...	...	71.9	...	39.6	...	...	...	...
...	28.4	8.2	16.7	7.6	40.3	...	9.4	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	6.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	85.6	69.8	87.0	77.1	94.7	...	89.6	...	...	...	...
...	77.1	37.6	73.1	51.8	82.9	...	67.8	...	...	...	...
...	92.7	74.8	72.2	54.3	97.8	...	95.7	...	...	...	...
...	41.2	26.8	...	36.9	48.3	...	72.5	...	...	...	...
...	83.8	51.4	60.5	81.8	90.2	...	88.7	...	...	...	...
...	23.6	24.6	4.2	20.5	22.6	...	32.9	...	...	...	...
...	...	2.5	4.5	6.1	11.1	...	18.9	...	...	...	...
36.6	44.3	37.3	37.0	32.3	34.6	45.4	40.8	43.8	48.1	47.0	43.4
42.8	59.0	43.6	43.3	40.9	51.1	70.8	55.8	61.3	75.8	70.0	65.3
6.6	13.9	4.3	5.4	10.8	7.3	...	35.0	7.4	...	...	23.4
15.2	24.6	...	16.1	14.2 ^D	10.9 ^C	30.3	12.8	13.6 ^E	32.6	24.8	16.9
28.9	13.7	15.2	15.1	12.4	...	5.2	7.6	6.7	6.6	15.7	5.4
13,304	18,702	8,785	17,823	13,852	28,359	19,060	17,587	11,815	16,823	15,583	17,030
48.7	54.9	51.2	56.5	43.0 ^C	51.0 ^I	56.5 ^D	59.0	42.9 ^E	74.1	62.1	45.6
18.6	23.6	15.9	19.3	15.3 ^C	21.8 ^I	20.5 ^D	26.9	12.4 ^E	25.2	25.4	14.6

Introduction, notes and abbreviation on page 19



Country Profile: BELGIUM

by Franz Rothenbacher

Belgium is in the heart of the European Union, a highly industrialized country, and a representative constitutional monarchy. Main characteristics of Belgium are: it is a catholic country (in 1984 75% of the population was catholic, 12% liberal (vrijzinnig)), it is linguistically divided into three language groups (Dutch, French and German). In many respects, however, it is a homogeneous country in terms of values and actual behaviour of the people. Belgium was one of the pioneers in industrialization, with heavy industry being concentrated in Wallonia. The country is meeting severe economic problems due to the economic decline of the Walloon heavy industry and unemployment is rather high (with 10% in 1994). The state debt is one of the highest in Europe, but inflation has been declining in the last few years (2.4% in 1994). The GDP per capita amounted to 19,510 US-\$ in 1993. Belgium thus belongs to the group of the top 20% within EU15. Belgium has a population of 10 million people and is therefore part of the group of the middle-sized EU countries, as Portugal and Greece. Population growth is moderate due to traditionally low fertility rates. Belgium is a highly urbanized country, with a good public transport infrastructure and high percentage of people commuting to work. This in turn is possible due to the relatively small distances within the country and the location of the capital in the country's centre.

Regional Disparities

Regional disparities exist in several respects. Wallonia has a much lower population density than the Flemish region. Fertility and mortality are slightly higher. Therefore

the share of people under 15 is also higher. Births out-of-wedlock are much more widespread in Wallonia than in the Flemish region. In general, economic conditions are much worse in Wallonia than in the Flemish region. Employment in industry is higher in the Flemish region; the economic activity rate in Wallonia is lower on average, especially as regards women. This is a result of higher unemployment in Wallonia: it is twice as high there as it is in the Flemish region. Especially youth unemployment is very high in Wallonia. The unemployment figures in the Brussels region are as high as in Wallonia; youth

unemployment even exceeds the figures of Wallonia. Population density is nearly three times as high in Belgium as it is in the European Union as a whole. In this respect as well the differences between the Flemish and the Walloon region are also very marked, the population density of the Flemish region being more than twice as high as that of the Walloon region.

On the one hand, the Brussels region has population characteristics typical of a big urban center - low percentage of children, many elderly people, high frequency of out-of-wedlock births. On the other hand, it has some specific characteristics: the share of employment in services is 83%, and the capital, too, is faced with massive employment problems.

Territorial Structure

In 1831, Belgium was organized as a unitarian centralized state under French-speaking dominance. The federalization of the country started

Table: Statistical comparisons

	Year	Belgium total	Brussels region	Flemish region	Walloon region	EU-15
Population (000s)	1991	9987	960	5768	3259	365449
Inhab. per km ²	1992	329	5891	430	195	114
Rates per 1000 inhab.						
Births	1992	12.4	13.6	12.1	12.5	11.5
Deaths	1992	10.3	11.6	9.7	11.1	10.0
Rates per 1000 births						
outside Marriage	1990	116	199	71	166	196
Stillbirths	1990	5.5	6.9	4.6	6.4	4.8
Age structure						
under 15 (%)	1991	19.0	18.9	18.7	19.7	17.8 ^A
15-64 (%)	1991	68.8	67.8	69.3	68.1	67.1 ^A
65 and older (%)	1991	12.2	13.3	12.0	12.2	15.1 ^A
GDP (in PPS)						
Per capita	1992	17130				15616 ^B
Annual growth (%)	1987-92	+2.1				+1.2 ^B
Sectoral employment						
Agriculture (%)	1994	2.9	0.2	3.1	3.1	5.7 ^B
Industry (%)	1994	28.9	16.9	31.6	26.7	31.7 ^B
Services (%)	1994	68.3	82.8	65.2	70.2	62.6 ^B
Economic activity rate						
Total (%)	1994	50.2	49.6	51.1	48.8	55.1 ^C
Female (%)	1994	40.1	40.2	40.8	38.9	44.0 ^C
Unemployment						
Total (%)	1994	9.8	16.6	6.7	13.5	10.6 ^C
Females (%)	1994	12.7	16.8	9.4	17.4	12.2 ^C
Youth (under 25) (%)	1994	21.6	35.2	20.7	34.3	19.1 ^C

Sources: EUROSTAT and national statistical publications.

Notes: A: Year 1992; B: EU12; C: Year 1993.

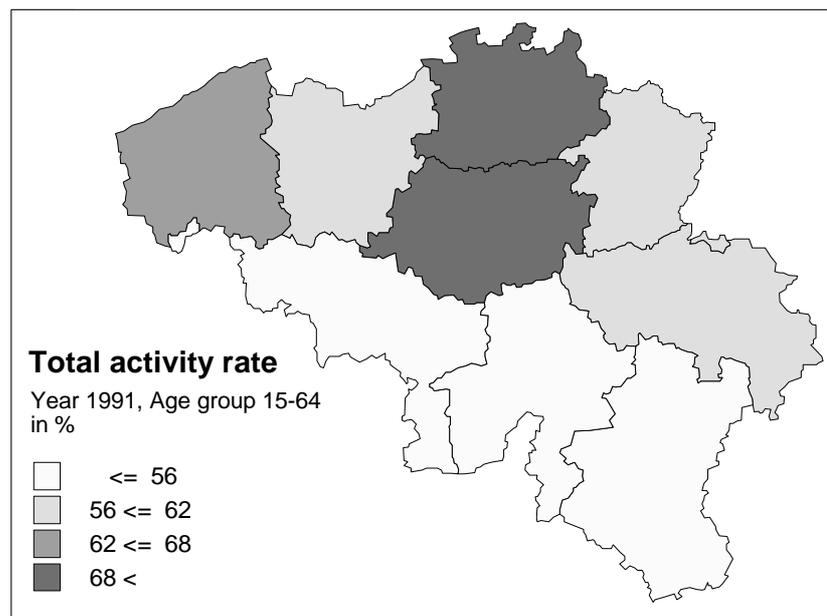
in the period between 1921 and 1935 when the legal and official language was no longer French alone, but both French and Dutch. Linguistic regionalization started in the 1960s, and the end of the unitary state came with the state reform of 1970-71. The process of federalization was advanced by the state reform of 1980 and the subsequent reforms of 1983 and 1988. The federalization process is not concluded. At present Belgium is divided into nine provinces with 43 arrondissements, four linguistic regions, three communities, and three regions. Statistical data are published for the territorial divisions of the Brussels-Capital region, the Flemish region and the Walloon region, for the 9 provinces, the 43 arrondissements and all municipalities. In general, however, data are published only for regions, arrondissements and municipalities, but not for the four linguistic regions and the three communities.

Statistical Sources

The largest part of data relevant for the social sciences are published by the Institut National de la Statistique (INS). The INS covers the country as a whole and all regions. Data are available in printed and - to an increasing degree - also in machine-readable form. The main statistical publications are the „Annuaire statistique de la Belgique“ and the monthly „Bulletin de statistique“. Special statistical series cover all fields of statistical reporting. Due to the rather decentralized statistical system many statistical data can only be obtained from national ministries (social welfare, health) or the numerous social security institutions which all publish own statistical reports.

The latest population census was carried out in 1991, but so far only 4 volumes of the 12 planned volumes have been published. Most data are available in spatial disaggregation down to municipalities in machine-readable form (on diskette) rather than in printed form.

Map: Activity rate in the Provinces of Belgium, 1991



Further reading

Boudart, Marina, Michel Boudart and R. Bryssinck (1990): *Modern Belgium*. Palo Alto, Cal.: The Society for the Promotion of Science and Scholarship.

Boulangé, B. and R. Cavenaile (1990): *La Belgique des origines à l'état fédéral. Précis d'histoire*. Namur: Editions Erasme.

Delpérée, Francis (1993): *La constitution fédérale du 5 mai 1993*. Bruxelles: Bruylant.

Delpérée, Francis (1994): *La Belgique fédérale*. Bruxelles: Bruylant.

Dorchy, Henry (1991): *Histoire des Belges. Des origines à 1991*. Bruxelles: De Boeck-Wesmael.

Lagasse, Charles-Etienne (1993): *Les nouvelles institutions politiques de la Belgique et de l'Europe*. Louvain-la Neuve: Editions ARTEL.

Mabille, Xavier (1992): *Histoire politique de la Belgique. Facteurs et acteurs de changement*. Ed. complétée 1992. Bruxelles: CRISP.

Matthijs, Koen (1988): *Belgoscopie*. Tiel: Lannoo.

Sennelle, Robert (1990): *The current constitutional system*, 169-200. In: Boudart, M. et al. (eds.), *Modern Belgium*. Palo Alto, Cal.

Voyé, Liliane et al. (1992): *Belges. Heureux et satisfaits. Les valeurs*

des Belges dans les années 90. Bruxelles: De Boeck-Wesmael.

National Statistical Institute: Institut National de Statistique (INS), Rue de Louvain, 44, 1000 Bruxelles, ☎ +32-2-5486211, Fax +32-2-5486367.

The INS publishes an annual „Catalogue des Produits et Services de l'Institut National de Statistique“ and monthly title lists (at the end of each issue of „Bulletin de Statistique“).

Social Science Research Institutions:

Population and Family Study Centre (C.B.G.S.), Ministry of the Flemish Community, Markiesstraat, 1, 1000 Bruxelles ☎ +32-2-5073559, Fax +32-2-5073419.

Centre for Social Policy (CSP), University of Antwerp (U.F.S.I.A.), Prinsstraat, 13, 2000 Antwerpen, ☎ +32-3-2204331, Fax +32-3-2204325.

Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (IRES), Département des Sciences Economiques, Université Catholique de Louvain, Place Montesquieu, 3, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, ☎ +32-10-474152, Fax +32-10-473945.

Centre de recherche et d'information socio-politiques (CRISP), rue du Congrès, 35, 1000 Bruxelles ☎ +32-2-2183226.

Social Science and Political Journals: L'année sociale (annual, ISBN 2-87263-155-0), Recherches Sociologiques (three/year, ISSN 0771-677X), Political Yearbook of Belgium (quarterly), Courrier hebdomadaire (du CRISP) (ISSN 0008-9664), Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale (quarterly).

New Journal: South European Society & Politics

The aim of this new journal is to provide a forum for comparative interdisciplinary studies of southern Europe, along with innovative country and subnational studies, and to encourage work on the region and its social, economic, cultural and political dimensions. In particular the editors wish to encourage quantitative work and more extensive study of policy-making. To these ends, the journal will publish regular assessments of the state of the art in major research areas.

The principal countries of study will be Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece. Contributions of high quality on southern France, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey will be considered - particularly where there is a strong comparative component. The disciplines can be any of the established social sciences - sociology, social policy, social anthropology, political science, political economy. Emphasis will be placed on interdisciplinarity and, where appropriate, empirical and quantitative methodology.

For subscription information, contact Frank Cass & Co. Ltd., Newbury House, 890-900 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex IG2 7HH, UK

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edwards@v2.qub.ac.uk

New MZES Working Papers

The following working papers have just been released and can be ordered from MZES, University of Mannheim, D-68131 Mannheim. Fax +49-621-292 8435.

Müller, W., Steinmann, S. & R. Ell (1995): **Education and Labour Market Entry in Germany.** (AB I, No. 10) DM 5.-

Ebbinghaus, B. & J. Visser (1996): **European Labor and Transnational Solidarity: Challenges, Pathways and Barriers.** (AB I, No. 11) DM 5.--

Rieger, E. & S. Leibfried (1995): **Globalization and the Western Welfare State. An Annotated Bibliogra-**

Statistical Agencies in the World Wide Web (WWW)

A growing number of statistical agencies runs WWW servers. The type of information offered there ranges from online publication catalogues to database descriptions and full-text coverage of statistical publications. The following list refers to the english-language homepages.

Statistical Departments of International Organisations

United Nations / Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Statistical division:
http://www.unicc.org/unece/stats/stats_h.htm

Statistical yearbook, Conference information, Electronic data interchange, Links to statistical agencies

European Union, EUROSTAT:

<http://www.cec.lu/en/comm/eurostat/eurostat.html>

Organization of Eurostat, Eurostat guide, Selected publications

National Statistical Agencies

Bulgaria (NSI): <http://www.acad.bg/BulRTD/nsi/index.htm>

Basic Activities of NSI, Scope of surveys, Access to statistical information, Demographic, social and economic features of the Republic of Bulgaria

Canada: <http://www.statcan.ca/start.html>

General information, Canada at a glance, Daily information, Virtual library, Internet services, Electronic marketplace, Other Web servers

Czech Republic (CzSO): http://infox.eunet.cz/csu/csu_e.html

Publications catalogue

Finland: <http://www.stat.fi/sf/home.html>

General Information, Statistical news, Publications, Library of statistics, Statistical databases and other electronic products, Links to other statistical services

Italy (ISTAT): <http://www.istat.it/Inglese.html>

General information, Products, Italy through statistics, Statistics on the Web

Netherlands (CBS): <http://www.cbs.nl>

General information, Press releases, Products, The year in figures, Statistical links

Norway (SSB): http://www.ssb.no/www-open/index_en.html

General information, News, Statistics by subject, Graphical presentations, Research, About data and databases, Other statistical Web services

Poland (CSO/P): <http://ciesin.ci.uw.edu.pl/instytut/gus/main.htm>

CSO/P tasks and obligations, Main trends of changes in statistics, Principles of data dissemination, Payment principles, Data bases by topic groups, Publication and information system

Portugal (INE): <http://www.ine.pt/ine/> (in Portuguese only)

Bem vindo, Guia de Apresentação, Locais de atendimento, Catálogo de Publicações, Dados Estatísticos, Notas de imprensa, Perguntas+Frequentes, Outras ligações, Síntese mensal da conjuntura

Slovenia (NSO): http://www.sigov.si/zrs/index_e.html

Basic information, General information, Urgent data, Short term economic indicators, Community, Indok center, Law on national statistics, Statistical yearbook, Announcements and invitations, Some links

Spain (INE): <http://www.ine.es> (in Spanish only)

Información general, Datos coyunturales, Productos de difusión, Datos municipales, Búsqueda de información, Otros servidores

Sweden (SCB): <http://www.scb.se/indexeng.htm>

General information, News, Statistics, Other statistical sources

United Kingdom (CSO): <http://www.emap.co.uk/cso/>

General information, Statistic of the day, CSO jobs, CSO events, Publication catalogue, Feature publication, Databank, Useful links, CSO services

Australia (ABS): <http://www.statistics.gov.au>

U.S. Bureau of the Census: <http://www.census.gov>

General information, Population and housing, Economy, Geography, Data access tools, Market place, Latest news, Ask the experts

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): <http://stats.bls.gov>

General information, Data, Economy at a glance, Surveys and programs, Publications, regional information, Research papers

U.S. Department of Commerce (STAT-USA): <http://www.stat-usa.gov>

General information, Access to STAT-USA data bases

phy. (AB I, Bibliographies, No. 2) DM 5,-

Catalan, J. (1995): **The Development of Two European Peripheral Economies in the Long Term: Poland and Spain, 1450-1990.** (AB III, No.13) DM 5,-

Forthcoming Events:

New Migration in Europe: Social Constructions and Social Realities, 18-20 April 1996, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Info: ERCOMER (European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations), P.O. Box 80.140, NL-3508TC Utrecht. Phone +31-30-539220, Fax +31-30-539280, ercomer@fsw.ruu.nl
<http://www.ruu.nl/ercomer/conf2.html>

European Social Science History Conference, 9-11 May 1996, De Leeuwenhorst Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Info: ESSHC c/o CAOS, W.G. Plein 475, 1054 SH Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Fax +31 - 20 - 689 0981

International Conference on Comparative Analysis of Enterprise Data, 17-19 June 1996, Helsinki, Finland. Info: „The MidNight Sun Conference“, P.O.Box 3A, FIN-00022 Statistics Finland, Fax +358-0-17342474, E-mail Mika.Maliranta@stat.fi

The Multilingual and Multicultural City, 18-22 June 1996, Copenhagen, Denmark. Info: Center for Multicultural Studies, Royal Danish School of Educational Studies, Emdrupborg, DK-2400 Copenhagen NV. Fax: +45 - 39 - 692550. E-mail cfmsinkj@inet.uni-c.dk or gimbel@dlh.dk

4th International Conference on Social Science Methodology (Call for Papers and Themes), 1-5 July 1996, Essex, UK. Info: David Rose, Fax +44-1206-873151,
 E-mail conf96@essec.ac.uk,
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/essex96>

Memory and History: European Identity at the Millenium (Fifth Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas), (ISSEI), 19-24 August 1996, University for Humanist Studies, Utrecht, Netherlands. Info: Conference secretariat, Lenette van Buren, University for Humanist Studies, P.O. Box 797, 3500 AT Utrecht, The Netherlands, Phone +31-30-390142 (after 10.10.95: 2390142), Fax +31-30-390170 (after 10.10.95: 2390170)

36th European Congress of the Regional Science Association, 26-30 August 1996, Zurich, Switzerland. Info: Phone +41-1-6332994, Fax +41-1-6331102, http://www.orl.arch.ethz.ch/FB_Oekonomie/congress,
 E-mail ersa96@orl.arch.ethz.ch

2nd International Conference on Survey and Statistical Computing, 11-13 Sep 1996, London. Info: Diana Edler, Administrator, ASC, PO Box 60, Chesham, Bucks, UK HP5 3QH Phone/Fax +44-(0) 1494 793033, E-mail asc@essex.ac.uk

Housing and Social Exclusion (Autumn Conference of the Housing Studies Association), 16-17 September 1996, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Birmingham, England. Info: David Mullins, Phone +44-121-4143348, Fax +44-121-4143279, E-mail d.w.mullins@bham.ac.uk

Work after 45? International Scientific Conference, 22-25 September 1996, Stockholm, Sweden. Info: Sara Saellström and Dan Hultgren, National Institute for Working Life, S-17184 Solna, Sweden, Phone +46-8-7309100, Fax +46-8-7309881

20th Conference on Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS), 14-17 October 1996, Madrid, Spain. Info: Mr. Antonio Martínez López, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Paseo de la Castellana 183, E-28046 Madrid. Fax +34-1-5837918

Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development, 15-17 October 1996, Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Info: Franco Millich, Council of Europe, Population and Migration Division, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, Phone: +33-88-412331, Fax +33-88-412731,
 E-mail franco.millich@dase.co.fr

EURODATA Research Archive

The *EURODATA Research Archive* is an infrastructural unit of the *Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)* at the University of Mannheim (Germany). The archive has two basic objectives which are closely related to each other:

- to provide an adequate data infrastructure for the Centre's comparative research on European societies and European integration;
- to contribute to the establishment of a European infrastructure for comparative social research.

EURODATA's work is structured by own medium-term development and three-annual work plans, relating to three areas of activity:

- the systematic and continuous provision of metainformation on official statistics and social science data from the private sector (information archive);
- the development and maintenance of a library with statistical publications from statistical institutes, ministries, para-official institutions and certain intermediary organisations from the private sector (statistics library);
- the provision of computerised information, with a particular focus on the development of an integrated file system with historical time series and institutional information (file archive).

EURODATA Research Archive

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EURODATA Newsletter

This newsletter is intended to contribute to facilitate data-based comparative research on European societies and polities. It is a product of the EURODATA Research Archive and 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.

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 eight 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 cooperations 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. *European Social Indicators* gives a picture of the social structure of European societies. *Noticeboard* provides general news including information about new statistics, recent books and studies, conference reports and announcements.

Published by: Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)
EURODATA Research Archive
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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.

