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The Development of Trade Unions in Western Europe: Global Convergence or Cross-national Diversity?

Trade unions play an important role in Western Europe. They have been subject to, and agents of, social and political changes that reshaped the post-war industrial society. In recent years, trade unions have been facing the threat of membership decline and the challenges of global competition and European economic integration. This poses the question whether union movements are under pressure to adapt in a similar way or whether they differ in their responses. Do we find a trend towards global convergence or does cross-national diversity persist among union movements in Western Europe? Drawing on comparative data from an international research project, we will provide a short portrait of the main patterns in union density and organisational concentration. Instead of a general trend toward convergence, we find signs of persisting diversity across Western Europe in union responses to both social changes and global challenges.

Union Development in Comparison

Trade unions organising the collective interests of the dependent employed belong to the major social institutions in modern industrial societies. Today, when union movements come increasingly under pressure from social, economic and political changes at both national and global levels, it is time to look at their long-term development. Such a comparative portrait of union development in Western Europe shows common trends as well as persistent divisions. A comparison across countries and time reveals to what extent union movements have been moulded by and tied to the national society, polity and market from which they emerged. The study of union development is important for both assessing changes in industrial relations and for a broader understanding of modern industrial societies.

For a long-term analysis, however, we need comparative indicators of union development which thus far have been difficult to collect for lack of comparable data. An international research project was organised at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) with the collaboration of experts from a dozen Western European countries. The DUES project, initiated by Peter Flora, was funded by *Stiftung Volkswagenwerk*, a German non-profit research foundation.

One major aim was to create a comparative database where information from official statistics, union sources and primary research would be collected. The main findings and statistics are to be published in the forthcoming handbook on *The Development of Trade Unions in Western Europe*, edited by Bernhard Ebbinghaus and Jelle Visser (1996).

The database, which allows further and more detailed analysis, will be made accessible to the academic public through the MZES research archive *Eurodata* upon publication of the handbook.

The project applied a comparative approach, indebted to the late Stein Rokkan's macro-sociology of European societies, that stresses the long-term structural and historical origins of Europe's unity and diversity. A comparative and historical perspective allows us to study unions in the broader context of social, political and economic changes and variations over time and across Western Europe. Following Rokkan, we focus on Western European countries that share long periods of democratic stability, similar pluralist institutions and cross-border fertilisation and thus make comparisons fruitful.

The project includes most countries within the *European Union* (EU) and *European Free Trade Association* (EFTA) with few exceptions. Some Southern European, Northern and smaller countries (Greece, Portugal, Spain, Iceland, Luxembourg) have not been covered as thoroughly due to practical considerations or to the short period of democracy in those countries. We abstained from incorporating the recent surge of post-communist and free union movements in Eastern Europe for want of reliable information and because of the still embryonic formation process. We hope that our project nevertheless encourages similar endeavours regarding these countries.

The Role and Strength of Unions

Historically, unions emerged as a part of a broad social movement, demanding political and industrial citizenship rights for labour (Ebbinghaus 1995). With the rise of organised labour, they became the prime representatives of worker interests *vis-à-vis* employers and the state. The societal role of organised labour was recognised in most

Western European countries by the end of the First World War when universal suffrage, coalition rights and collective bargaining were legally enshrined. The „institutionalisation" of the class conflict was further advanced with the enlargement of the welfare states and full employment policies in post-war Western Europe.

With the post-war economic growth, organised labour gained in membership and organisational strength in Western Europe, though this varied significantly across countries. Given the party-unions that had historically emerged in most countries, the union movement profited by and large from the political alignment to labour parties, especially in countries where these parties were in power for a longer time. Moreover, in most European countries, unions play an important role within the newly institutionalised forms of social concertation, and they helped to bring about post-war social pacts that have shaped the welfare state development until today.

Whatever the institutional environment and outside allied support, the main strength of union movements was situated in their ability to mobilise members. Union membership and density (the number of active members divided by the number of the dependent employed) are thus widely regarded as principal indicators of union strength. These measures of the level of organisation are important for evaluating the unions' claim of representativity and their potential capacity to mobilise financial resources and also collective action in industrial disputes.

Yet the meaning of union membership varies over time and between union movements. The degrees of stability, ideological allegiance, financial commitment and personal support on the part of the members diverge considerably between unions. With professionalisation and bureaucratisation of most unions, the member-union ties changed

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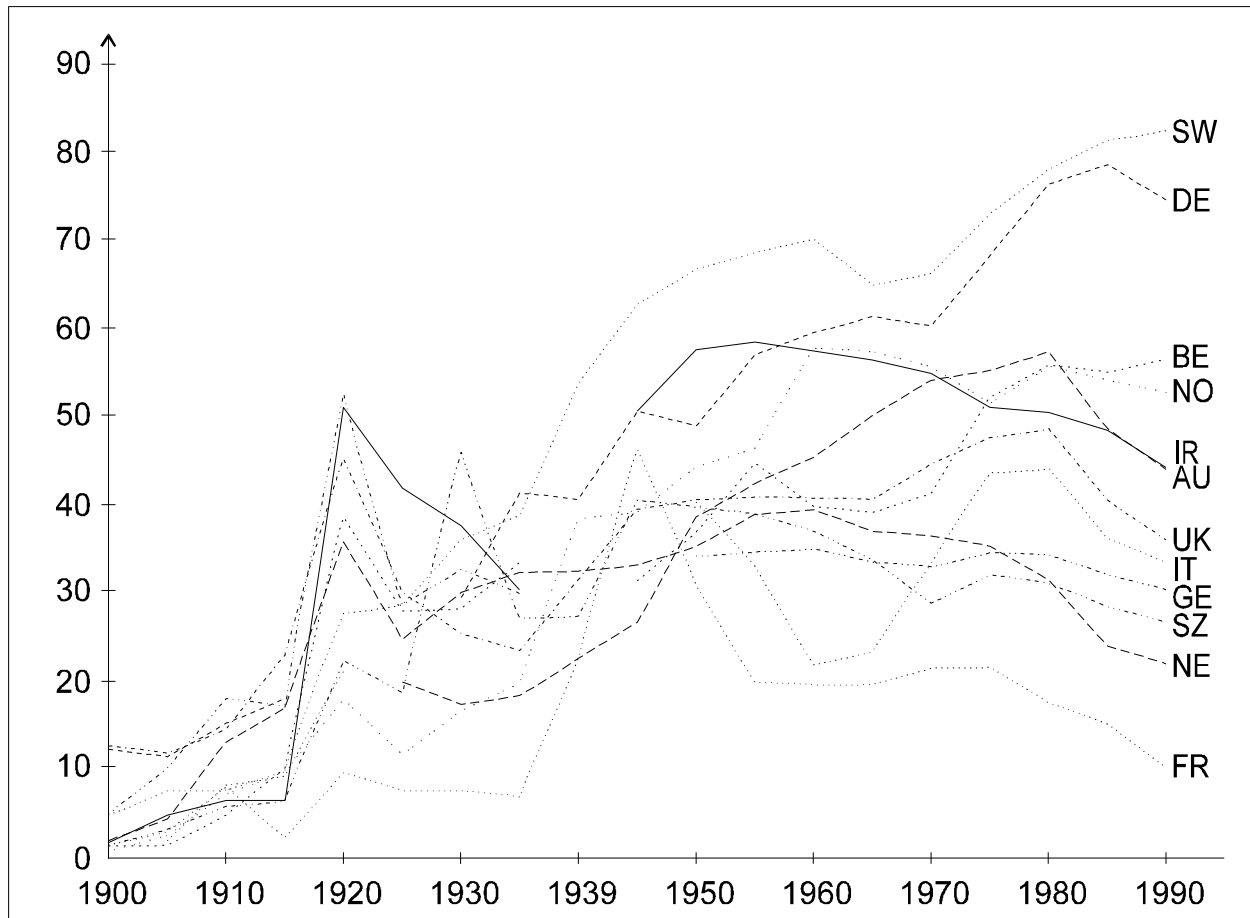
from previously informal *ad hoc* social bonds to more formal bureaucratic membership relations. This development had been advanced earlier and was more pervasive in Northern than in Southern Europe.

Although survey data is now available for some countries for recent years, we had to rely on union reports, and were thus dependent on the accuracy of the unions' book-keeping. We attempted to make membership figures comparable by extracting non-active members from union density calculations. Where we could not obtain internal information on non-active membership from the unions, we applied "informed" estimates in order to correct the otherwise inflated density figures.

In addition to union membership trends, we should also consider other aspects, such as organisational integration, the degree of centralisation and inclusiveness of union movements. For our short overview we will therefore look at the main confederations, their number of affiliates and their share in overall membership ("associational monopoly") as measures of centralisation and comprehensiveness. These are crucial indicators for evaluating to what degree the representation of labour interests is fragmented, which is of importance if one looks at organised labour's unity *vis-à-vis* employers and the state in both collective bargaining and pressure group politics.

The Global Rise and Divergence of Unionism

Since their early formation prior to the turn of the century, trade unions have become a major social movement and labour market institution. With the rise of trade unionism, the long-term increase in union membership and the formation of large-scale national union movements, organised labour gained an important role as representative of labour interests in politics and industrial relations. During our century, the overall level of unionisation in-

Graph 1: Union Density (in %), Western Europe 1900-90

creased considerably as unions became large mass organisations and recognised collective bargaining partners. The recent signs of a crisis in union membership have to be seen in a comparative and long-term context.

The rise in the level of unionisation (see Graph 1) occurred in several waves which also mark the main junctures in labour history. After a gradual take-off before the First World War, the end of the war brought a major surge in mobilisation as well as widespread union recognition. However, with the onset of mass unemployment during the Great Depression, the union movements came under attack and lost many of their new members. Moreover, Fascist and authoritarian regimes banned free unionism in parts of Central and Southern Europe.

Only after the defeat of Fascism and the end of the Second World War, a new boom in union membership

occurred. This was followed by a new wave after the "hot summers" of the late 1960s, particularly in Italy. Yet after the first oil crisis in 1973 and the breakdown of full employment regimes, the signs of union decline loomed in most countries.

The new pressures since the 1970s led however to more diversity than convergence (see Graph 1). The level of unionisation still showed trends toward convergence until the 1950s, when most countries seemed to follow a similar path. However, we have witnessed a remarkable divergence in unionisation patterns since then. This contradicts the convergence prediction of modernisation theory that implies that the "logic of capitalism" affects union movements similarly. Following the immediate post-war period, when all democratic Western European countries enjoyed a boost in union membership, some movements have

continued to grow, while others have shrunk ever since.

In the post-war period, three clusters of countries - showing continuing growth, fluctuating stability, or long-term decline - have emerged (see Graph 2). Included in the first group are Swedish, Danish and Belgian union movements which show remarkable long-term union growth. All three are leading the top European ranks, partly due to the unions' role in unemployment insurance that provides an incentive in times of unemployment.

In the large "middle field" there are the Norwegian, Austrian and Irish union movements which have achieved or maintained a medium position, while in Italy and the United Kingdom the unions have experienced considerable fluctuations around the average rate. Germany and Switzerland also have relatively stable, but somewhat lower levels of unionisation. (Since the unification, the German DGB

has profited from the higher level of unionisation in the East, although the membership boost seems to recede again).

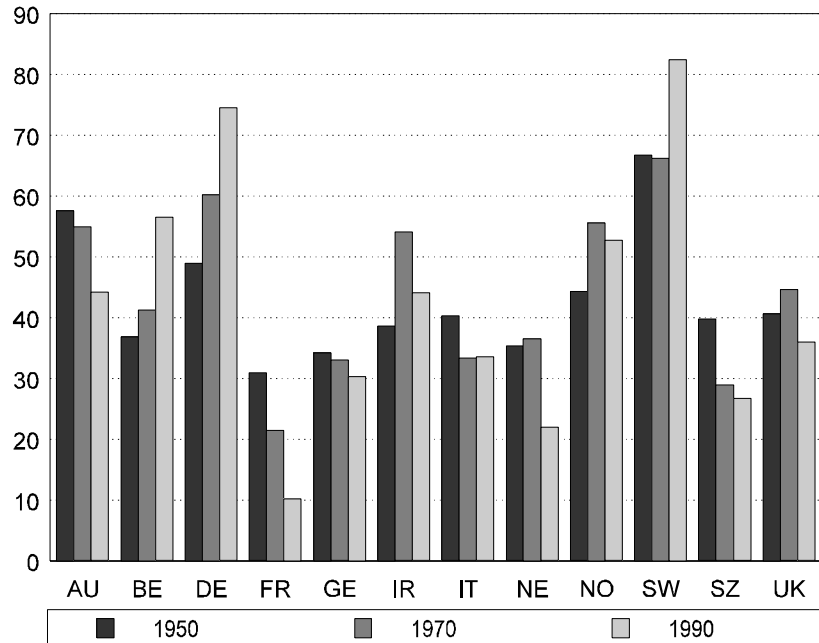
The last group of "losers" is comprised of the Dutch, French and (since the late 1970s) the British union movement. They have witnessed a relatively severe membership decline, however, starting from very different peak levels. Like the French, the new Southern European union movements (Spain, Portugal, Greece) have a relatively low unionisation level and unstable membership bonds since the democratisation in the late 1970s.

Social Changes and Union Decline or Adaptation?

Prima facie the signs of the "crisis" of trade unionism, in particular the loss in membership, could be attributed to recent changes in the social and economic structure of Western societies. Some observers claim that a break with the post-war welfare state and industrial relations regime occurred due to major political changes in the national and international environment. Indeed, a dramatic decline in unionisation set in under the Reagan Administration in the USA and the Thatcher government in the UK. Moreover, other union movements experienced a long-lasting downward trend over the last two decades, most notably in France, Italy, the Netherlands, and beyond Europe in Japan.

Some observers pose the question whether union decline can be attributed to social changes and will thus also affect other countries. Major social changes that are often quoted are those from an industrial to a service economy, the shifts from manual to white-collar work, increased female labour force participation, and a rise in the number of part-time and flexible work contracts. These changes will lead to a more heterogeneous labour force. Female, part-time, white-collar or service employees are often taken to be less collectively oriented and thus more difficult to organise in trade unions. To the degree that all

Graph 2: Union Density (in %), Western Europe 1950, 1970, and 1990



societies are experiencing these secular social changes we would expect them to be facing the same challenges.

However, we find that unions respond very differently to these social changes, some being more capable of adapting to the new situation, others remaining inert and locked into shrinking sectors. Indeed, the changing labour force does not only have consequences for the level of unionisation, but also for the internal unity of organised labour. Depending on the openness of the established unions, these new social groups are more or less inclined to join them; otherwise they may form rival sectional unions. Both the level of unionisation and the degree of integration within the main union movements varies considerably across Europe.

There is evidence in several countries that the rise of new social groups and female employment does not always pose a problem for union organisation. Traditionally, male industrial workers are the group most likely to organise in collective organisations. With the rise of the welfare state, the union movements also made great inroads into the public service sector (see Visser 1991). The Scandinavian unions were also successful in or-

ganising female and part-time employees, as they tended to be employed in the well-organised public service sector. As a consequence, nearly half of all union members are female in Scandinavia, whereas in countries with late and still low female labour force participation, like the Netherlands and Switzerland, not even one in five union members is a woman (see Table 1).

Indeed, looking at membership trends and composition, we find that the occupational transformation contributed only partially to union decline. Employment shifts, in contrast to widespread believe, have only accounted for a small proportion of union decline over the last two decades. A study prepared for the OECD found that there is little correlation between structural shifts in employment measured at the one-digit sector level and the changes in union density (Visser 1991).

Similarly, the argument that increased female labour force participation has led to a decline in unionisation does not hold true. In most countries for which data is available union density rates for women have increased or remained stable, whereas union decline was mainly the result of a drop in male unionisation (see Table 1). Cer-

tainly, part-time employment in small-sized non-organised firms increased along with female employment over the last decades; however, the success of Scandinavian unions shows that it is very well possible to recruit these groups.

Since the first oil crisis, the economic and political environment has certainly become more adverse to unions: long-term unemployment, sluggish growth, an anti-union political climate and public austerity policies (including privatisation and pay-stops in the public sector) have all prevented further union expansion. While the beginning of an unemployment cycle may have a positive impact on membership recruitment, long-term unemployment is a drain on union membership and financial mobilisation.

However, where unions are involved in the administration of the unemployment insurance (Belgium, Denmark, Sweden), membership has remained stable. Yet this involvement may also constitute long-term financial strains on unions and increase their dependency on state subsidies. Again, we see that global trends induce diverse responses due to cross-national differences in the institutional environments and also

in union strategies.

The Global and European Challenges

In all advanced economies, labour relations have come under pressure in recent years as a result of changes in flexible production, employer strategies to decentralise and deregulation policies by the nation-state and the EU. In addition to these "global" challenges, the increase in economic and political integration within the European Union nurtured doubts amongst European unionists as to whether the EU's "Social Dimension" will be able to guarantee basic social rights for Europe's workers. Some observers predict a general convergence or a global crisis of European unionism, while others claim that national union movements differ significantly in past, current and future responses to these pressures.

In the light of these challenges, we may ask what the consequences of union diversity on European level coordination are. But we may also ask whether these pressures have an impact that will lead towards convergence of European union movements. Thus a study of union development can provide some understanding of the conditions for Euro-

pean unity amongst organised labour. If we take union density again as a measure of mobilisation, we can make two observations concerning global trends and European union cooperation (see Table 2).

First, the levels of unionisation and membership stability remain much higher in Western Europe than for the two other "global players" USA and Japan. In Japan, one in four employees is organised today, compared to one in three before the oil crisis. The decline in union membership is even greater in the USA, where the level of unionisation shrank from 30% (1970) to less than 15% (1992). On the other hand, the level of unionisation was always higher and union decline was in general less remarkable in Western Europe as a whole with few exceptions. In contrast to the weakened union movements of the two other global players, the Western European union movements have become by and large an integral part of Europe's social dimension.

Second, we have nevertheless to acknowledge that there is considerable variation across Europe with important consequences for European unity. The union movements of the first Common Market coun-

Table 1: Union Density (in %) by Sector and Gender, Western Europe, 1970 and 1988/89

Country	Total		Manufacturing		Financial serv- ices		Public services		Males		Females	
	1970	1989	1970	1988	1970	1988	1970	1988	1970	1988	1970	1988
Austria	59	45	68	53	37	28	78	57	73	57	45	37
Belgium	46	56	60	95	20	23	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark	60	b) 74	c) 80	100	c) 37	36	..	70	..	78	..	72
France	21	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Germany	33	32	36	d) 48	15	d) 17	61	45	42	47	15	22
Great Britain	44	b) 39	52	41	21	25	60	55	54	44	29	33
Ireland	50	a) 47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italy	33	35	40	47	33	22	47	54	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	36	23	41	25	8	9	64	49	44	35	14	13
Norway	51	56	67	87	51	33	68	75	..	..	..	..
Sweden	68	85	84	100	70	72	..	81	77	82	54	88
Switzerland	31	26	27	34	26	14	75	d) 71	42	34	14	13

Source: Visser (1992): Tables 1.1 and 1.2. Notes: gross union densities; a) 1987; b) 1988; c) 1972; d) 1986; e) ..: data not available.

tries (Benelux, France, Germany and Italy) had and still have medium to low levels of union density and are in some cases politically more fragmented than the next group that joined the EC in 1974 (Britain, Ireland, Denmark) or the EFTA countries (of which some recently joined the EU: Austria, Sweden, Finland).

In contrast, the Southern European countries as well as the new unions in Eastern Europe show a much lower capacity to mobilise membership and hold on to it. Thus, while the former more "narrow" economic blocs (Common Market vs. EFTA) also represented differences in unionisation, the enlarged EU encompasses more diversity. The countries with strong union movements, such as the Scandinavian countries, remain in the minority within the European Union, which explains some of their reservations about European integration.

Both a global trend towards union decline and persistent diversity regarding the level and pattern of unionism could hamper the strength and unity of labour at the European level. Indeed, the major European peak organisation of labour, the *European Trade Union Confederation* (ETUC), founded in 1973, organises more than forty national union confederations from more than twenty countries (Visser / Ebbinghaus 1992). The ETUC repre-

sents a multitude of unions from small to large, from encompassing to sectionalist organisations, and also a number of transnational European Industry Committees. Although the ETUC speaks for the majority of unions and the overwhelming share of all union members, it represents only one-third of all dependent employed in Western Europe (including even some countries outside the EU).

Union Concentration or Organisational Differentiation?

Have unions become more alike due to global challenges, even though they differ regarding membership trends? An effort to concentrate forces seems to be a relatively rational strategy given the more adverse economic and political situation, the increased efforts necessary to mobilise members and resources, and the need for transnational coordination. Yet, union movements vary considerably as regards the degree of centralisation, unity and inclusiveness (see Table 3). Again, many observers noted a post-war trend toward concentration, though others point out the crucial differences in union systems across Western Europe, especially with respect to political and sectionalist splits.

In several continental countries we find politically divided union movements with a schism along

religious-secular lines (Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland) or Communist-religious lines (France, Italy). The unitary German DGB and Austrian ÖGB, however, have succeeded in overcoming the pre-war schism due to particular historical circumstances. Later efforts to unite the already entrenched rival unions elsewhere have had only partial or temporary success (Dutch FNV merger and the Italian efforts to a CGIL-CISL-UIL federation in the late 1970s).

In Scandinavia as well as in some continental European countries we find different (largely non-political) cleavages that lead to independent peak associations. They distance themselves from industrial manual worker unionism, which tends to align themselves with the allied labour party. In these countries, a number of white-collar unions, civil service organisations, and / or professional associations founded their own peak organisations (most notably: Danish FTF, German DBB, Dutch MHP and AC, Swedish TCO and SACO, Swiss VSA). The British and Irish union confederations have no direct rival peak organisation; however, some individual unions have abstained from political alignment with the Labour Party and / or affiliation with TUC and ITUC respectively.

A cursory look at the main confederations, their number of unions and shares in overall membership ("associational monopoly") reveals paramount diversity. While there seems to be a general trend towards concentration regarding the number of unions, we still find considerable variation and exceptions. In a number of countries we find a multitude of unions divided by political orientation (France, Italy) or organisational principle (Britain, Ireland), and in others a more rationalised system with few unitary industrial or inclusive unions (above all: Austria and Germany).

The relative decline in union fragmentation is most striking in the United Kingdom with its over 700 unions (nearly 200 affiliates within

Table 2: Union Density (in %) in Western Europe, USA and Japan, 1970-89

Regional bloc	1970	1975	1980	1985	1989
EC-6	32	37	36	34	30
EC-9	36	41	41	38	34
EC-12	..	40	40	36	33
EFTA	54	58	60	60	59
W. Europe	38	43	44	40	38
USA	30	25	23	18	16
Japan	35	34	31	29	26

Source: Visser / Ebbinghaus (1992): Table 7.1. Notes: EC-6: Benelux, France, Germany and Italy; EC-9: plus Denmark, Ireland, UK; EC-12: plus Greece, Portugal and Spain; EFTA: Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland; W. Europe: EC-12 and EFTA.

TUC) around 1950. The number of unions has been cut considerably within the TUC and in general. This was partly the result of several merger waves leading to larger unions but not necessarily to industrial unions as in Germany or Sweden.

Also in Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden, all of them countries with more than 100 unions in 1950, concentration waves occurred during the last decades, particularly within the major union confederations. Yet in some cases, sectionalist unions mushroomed as a counter-reaction to the solidaristic „inclusive“ unionism in Germany, the Netherlands, Norway (note also the rise of „autonomous“ unions in France and Italy).

The question remains open to what degree the concentration waves have led to a decline in union fragmentation and the integration of sectional interests within encompassing non-rival unions. The indicator of "associational monopoly", a peak association's share in overall union membership, provides a handy measure of the representativity of a union confederation.

The unitary union movements (Austrian ÖGB and German DGB) and the British and Irish union confederations (TUC, ITUC) have achieved by and large a high level of associational monopoly. To the degree that they decided not to, or were less able to, organise non-manual employees, the Scandinavian LOs, but also the Swiss SGB, witnessed a decline of their initially dominant majority, as white-collar unionism increased outside their own ranks.

The Belgian union movement is outstanding due to the fact that the Catholic union confederation (CSC) became the largest Christian union movement in Europe. The neighbouring Dutch catholic union movement (NKV), after facing decline, merged with the Socialist unions (NVV) to form a unitary union centre (FNV) two decades ago. The other politically divided union movements, the two Commu-

Table 3: Number of Unions and Associational Monopoly (in %) by Major Union Confederations, Western Europe, 1950, 1970 and 1990

Country and Confederation	Number of unions			Associational Monopoly (in %)		
	1950	1970	1990	1950	1970	1990
Austria						
ÖGB	16	16	15	100.0	100.0	100.0
Belgium	35	34	37			
FGTB	17	14	12	47.6	43.4	39.1
CSC	17	19	24	45.5	50.0	52.0
CGSLB	1	1	1	6.9	6.6	8.9
Denmark	a) ~133	~140	~115			
LO i D	a) 68	52	29	a) 82.0	78.1	69.5
FTF	a) 22	49	47	a) 7.1	15.0	15.8
others	a) ~43	~39	~39	a) 10.9	6.9	14.7
Germany	~40	~90	~140			
DGB	16	16	16	91.0	81.4	81.1
DBB	13	27	34	3.0	8.7	8.2
CGB	1	13	17	0.0	2.3	3.2
others	~10	~34	~73	6.0	7.6	7.5
France	..	..	..
CGT	..	..	..	75.6	50.3	30.1
FO	..	..	..	9.1	16.6	20.1
CFDT	..	..	..	8.6	16.3	21.5
Ireland	111	115	b) 81			
ICTU	[68]	75	b) 58	92.2	92.4	b) 90.9
others	43	40	b) 23	7.8	7.6	b) 9.1
Italy		c) ~103	~72			
CGIL		c) 31	20	81.7	c) 53.3	51.0
CISL		c) 39	22	18.3	c) 33.5	34.6
UIL		c) 33	30	..	c) 13.3	14.4
Netherlands	354	269	232			
FNV	32	17	17	33.4	39.2	62.4
(NVV)						
NKV	25	18	>FNV	25.6	25.6	>FNV
CNV	25	22	13	13.7	15.3	19.0
MHP	37	69	86	0.5	2.0	7.6
AC	50	45	55	1.8	2.5	6.5
others	185	98	61	25.0	15.4	4.5
Norway	78	169	156			
LO i N	41	40	29	83.6	76.3	59.8
others	37	129	127	16.4	23.7	40.2
Sweden	189	108	71			
LO	44	29	23	77.8	66.3	57.9
TCO	42	23	20	16.9	28.3	33.8
SACO	[58]	48	24	2.2	3.9	7.7
others	45	8	4	3.1	1.5	0.6
Switzerland	73	70	73			
SGB	15	15	16	58.3	51.8	48.9
CNG	9	11	12	7.0	11.0	12.6
VSA	8	11	9	12.5	15.7	15.6
others	41	33	36	22.2	21.5	22.9
U.K.	732	543	287			
TUC	186	142	74	83.4	89.4	82.4
others	546	401	213	15.7	10.6	17.6

Source: Ebbinghaus / Visser (1996): Country Tables 8, 10 and 17.

Notes: a) 1952; b) 1988; c) 1977; ..: data not available; ~: estimated; []: sum of confederations that later merged; >FNV: NVV and NKV merged to form FNV.

nist union movements, experienced a more dramatic decline (France) or a more gradual balancing out (Italy), though taking very different ideological routes.

Although we are witnessing some overall concentration and a decline in political schism as well as attempts towards European cooperation, these changes have not eliminated union diversity. Instead, union diversity seems to be renewed across Europe. Some political union movements, such as the Belgian catholic unions, have fared very well, while others like the inert French Communists retreated to their shrinking strongholds.

Union movements thus vary across Europe most notably in terms of their capacity to integrate the more heterogeneous interests of today's modern society within their own ranks. Both the disparate membership developments and the diverse patterns of concentration and representation show major differences across countries. Rather than finding indications for a trend toward global convergence, cross-national comparisons indicate that there are many signs of a renewed diversity in labour's organisational strength and unity.

Notes

Graphs: Union density figures before 1945 (union membership in percent of dependent labour force) are taken from Visser 1989 and updated database; since 1945 figures are net union density rates (without pensioners and other non-active members), taken from the

DUES database (see Ebbinghaus / Visser 1996: Country Tables 13 and 14). For further notes on methodology see Visser (1989, 1991). **Table 1 and 2:** Union gross density figures (including non-active members) see notes to tables. **Table 3:** The number of unions (including independent local unions) have been compiled from the DUES database (see Ebbinghaus / Visser 1996: Country Tables 8). Associational monopoly (share of confederation in overall membership) is calculated from Ebbinghaus / Visser (1996): Country Tables 10 and 17.

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The Development of Trade Unions in Western Europe, 1945-92. A Data Handbook

If you are interested in being notified upon publication of the handbook, please send a short note (RE: "DUES Data Handbook") with your name and the address of your institution to:

E-mail:
bebbing@mzes.sowi.uni-mannheim.de

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Franz Kraus

The Need for Access to European Microdata

Microdata have been a major source for empirical social research since the 1960s at least. Most of this research focused on national aspects, however. The development of appropriate methodological tools and analysis techniques was a major issue. Applied social research very often meant applying modern tools to readily available survey data. In Europe, for a long time working with microdata meant having to make a secondary analysis of data produced by commercial market research organisations or conducting and analysing small-scale academic surveys. In either case, time and space did not play a significant role. Cross-national analysis was mainly limited to the analysis of aggregate data from official statistics. Important cross-national data collections were produced at that time, such as Arthur Bank's 'Cross-National Time Series Data Archive', or Taylor and Hudson's 'World Handbook of Political and Social Indicators, to mention only a few.

Microdata from government agencies and academic research

Cross-national comparative analysis based on microdata gained importance with the availability of the European Communities' Eurobarometer survey data and their distribution within the ICPSR. The success of comparative academic research, e.g. Inglehart's work on post-materialism, clearly demonstrated the research potential of comparative microdata. In addition to that, official statistics in Europe have gradually shifted from using administrative data to using survey data since the late 1950s. Family budget surveys, level of living resp. quality of life surveys, and, above all, labour force surveys were carried out in most European countries (ILO 1992, 1990; Flora et al 1994). It was particularly the Labour Force Survey with its comparatively high standardisation and large sample size as well as its wide and early diffusion in Europe that offered enormous research possibilities for comparative social research from the very beginning. Surprisingly enough, comparative research did not really welcome these new possibilities. There were many reasons for the disparity between research potential and actual reciepience within the scientific community, but access to data was certainly a major point. Keeping in mind the linguistic and cultural fragmentation of Europe, it seems reasonable to suppose that the scientific community

simply could not manage the exploitation of these sources for comparative research without proper infrastructural services. And a service institution with a comparative orientation that could take care of these microdata did not exist. With the gradual diffusion of national social science data services in the 1980s, the academic community made new efforts to establish cross-national microdatabases of its own (such as the International Social Survey Program or the World Value Survey). The utilisation of surveys from official statistics for comparative purposes actually began with the foundation of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) during the 1980s (cf. the contribution of Gaston Schaber in this newsletter). Earlier efforts at the University of Mannheim to establish a comparative microdata archive containing labour force surveys (W. Müller) could not be institutionalised. Again, the tremendous success of the European study group on social mobility and of LIS also in terms of substantive research results clearly demonstrates the great research potential inherent in microdata from official statistics.

Official microdata as a prerequisite for comparative research on Europe

Access to microdata is the prerequisite for an efficient use of the unprecedented wealth of official sta-

tistics in comparative research for at least two reasons:

- Firstly, in-depth analyses of social processes can only be carried out if data are available at the level of individuals. The identification of social patterns requires the identification of group-specific behaviour, which implies prior analysis of behaviour at the level of individuals. In order to exploit the potential of these data, advanced techniques of multivariate analysis have to be applied. These techniques operate, however, at the level of individual data. The state of the art is microdata analysis. It would in fact be difficult to find a leading researcher in the social sciences who would object to the view that nowadays the best and most useful way to analyse data is to do it at the level of the individual sample unit.
- Secondly, even researchers who are only interested in comparative analysis at the macro-level need in many cases access to microdata. Data tables in publications tend to vary over time and across countries. Public databases are frequently limited to standard tables which naturally vary across nations. International statistics, offered by international organisations, are valuable sources for many purposes. But if in-depth analysis is required, the available tables often lack sufficient detail, a fact which even applies to the voluminous macrolevel databases of the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

There are many unexplored fields of research that require our attention. Many of the questions that have been studied so far within a national context must become the object of research at the European level. Research on Europe is evidently a task of much higher complexity. If we want to understand the difficulties and the problems encountered in the process of integration properly, we have to come to a more inte-

grated knowledge of the economic, social and political pathways in the history of the countries, in their present developments and their likely futures. The many complex interdependencies between existing structures, politics and social behaviour need to be researched at the European level, and often also within the world system. Labour markets and the welfare state are certainly crucial areas regarding basic as well as applied research. We need to clarify the structures and dynamics of both employment and unemployment across occupations, gender, industries and educational categories at the level of regions. We need a better understanding of the individuals' labour market behaviour from the perspective of the family. We need more research on the behaviour of vulnerable groups. We need more comprehensive and systematic research on the interrelationship between economic growth and social differentiation. How do family types and forms, life courses and life styles differ from country to country, what will be their likely future courses, and what will be the consequences regarding social integration? These are just a few and sketchy examples. The numerous working papers and research monographs produced by the LIS research network provide many additional examples, and show that comparative social research can be highly relevant for political decision makers as well. It is clear, however, that LIS and the academic microdatabases briefly mentioned above do not suffice to study the evolution of a European society in a thorough and comprehensive way.

The research agenda, set out in the working programme of TSER (a research programme of the European Commission), confirms that in-depth analyses on social change and integration in Europe cannot be carried out without analyses of individual data. This does certainly not only hold for policy-oriented analysis, but is generally valid. Given the relatively large sample

size of official surveys, their high degree of comparability and the repetitiousness of measurement, academic surveys cannot be a substitute. For all these reasons, it would be an incredible waste of public resources, if there was no guarantee that data collected by statistical agencies could readily be made available in the form of microdata for research purposes.

Conditions of access to microdata in Europe

In many countries there is some form of gaining access to official microdata. Legislation (de Guchte-naire/Mochmann 1990) and procedures, however, vary greatly from country to country as well as in terms of statistical sources. According to a recent survey of national statistical institutes in Western Europe, conducted by the Dutch Statistical Office (Cittuer and Wiltenborg 1991), only two countries, namely France and Great Britain, offer access via public use files. Meanwhile the Italian Statistical Office also offers public use files, and the Anglo-Saxon overseas countries offer them as well (Müller et al 1991).

In a number of European countries (such as Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland), access to national microdata is granted for scientific purposes via individual, special contracts. There is great variation, however, with respect to sources for which access is granted as well as the forms of access. Some countries, e.g. Denmark and regarding some sources Germany as well, only allow remote processing, others disseminate data for local use, e.g. Switzerland. More important than differences between forms of access are differences with respect to statistical sources that can be accessed. Only a few countries, including once more France and Britain, allow access to population censuses. Considering its extremely high value for comparative research, it is obvious that comparative research

cannot exploit the full potential of official statistics, not even in those countries where access to microdata is granted in principle. Nevertheless, these countries are, of course, have taken the right way.

For Europe as a whole, however, the problem of how to gain access to official microdata has not even been solved in principle. It is true that due to the European microdata archives established at CEPS/INSTEAD in Luxembourg (cf. the contribution of Gaston Schaber in this newsletter) the situation has improved greatly. However, the experiences made with LIS show how time-consuming and tedious it is to organise a cross-national database based on official microdata via bilateral contracts. Although extraordinarily high security standards aimed at preventing the misuse of microdata were implemented from the very beginning, it took years to establish the current database. Apparently the Luxembourg Employment Study, a recent attempt to make labour force surveys available, is making the same experiences. In a way, these academic institutions have to repeat what Eurostat has already done: to harmonise national microdata export. The waste of public money is obvious, and opportunity costs are high. Nevertheless, the impact on comparative research was extraordinary. Many researchers around the world used these data and published highly recognised work - which would not have been possible without this database.

Confidentiality and access to microdata*

It is obvious that the current conditions for access to microdata are far from satisfactory. Access to microdata was gradually restricted in Europe in the early 1980s via national data protection measures. In most Western European countries, the possible misuse of microdata has become an issue of political

* This section draws on an unpublished paper by Müller and Wirth, 1994

debate, the crucial point being identity disclosure.

The right to ensure freedom of information forms part of the 'European Convention on Human Rights'. But the convention also contains another article which is highly relevant in this context: the 'right to respect private life'. The 'Convention on Data Protection', which was signed in the early 1980s by the Council of Europe, laid down a number of principles which influenced data protection legislation in many countries as well as within the European Communities. Shortly after that, the Council of Europe passed a recommendation on scientific research and statistics. The recommendation, accepted by the Council of Ministers, recognised scientific research and statistics as a special case and introduced 'de facto anonymity' of individual data as a criterion for data protection. This means that microdata are to be considered safe if the disclosure of identity cannot be achieved unless an 'unreasonable amount of time, cost and manpower required to identify the individual' (Hunstix 1991) is invested.

It is very likely that all of us accept the principle that providing data should not bring any person or institution disadvantages. The securing of privacy and confidentiality is of crucial concern for all data-collecting institutions or persons. In this respect statisticians and scientists have identical interests. Breaches in confidentiality will have negative impacts on both of them, irrespective of whether official or academic surveys are concerned. The conservation of confidentiality and privacy is of mutual interest, and LIS provides again a good example in this context. However, in public debates the risk of intentional disclosure is often exaggerated. In the past, many studies were carried out examining how it would be possible to protect the interest of data subjects by means of procedures that ensure privacy and confidentiality and at the same time secure access to data needed by the

users. A recent study carried out by the German Statistical Office (Müller 1991) reveals that it is extremely difficult to identify individuals once direct identifiers and detailed regional information are removed. At a recent conference organised by Eurostat (CEC 1993) several contributions supported these findings. The fact that all data include measurement errors or, for other reasons, are incompatible with the prior knowledge of an invader shows that there is a strong natural barrier against disclosure. Theoretical studies on the risks of identity disclosure have often neglected this factor. Practical experience in countries which have been providing public use files for years show that the scientific community can be trusted. Researchers have scientific interests and subscribe to high ethical standards. The permanent reinforcement of these standards, for example via formal commitments of data users and their institutions to 'codes of conduct', and organisational safety measures are an additional safeguard against confidentiality breaches.

The need for a balanced decision

It is obvious that privacy and confidentiality must be balanced against the human right of information. The risk of disclosure exists even if access to microdata outside statistical offices is completely impossible. There is, of course, always the risk that somebody, be it in the statistical office itself or in the interviewer crew, misuses his or her position. However, if one mistrusted these professional groups in the same way one sometimes mistrusts scientists, one would really have to think about closing the offices down. One can imagine how high the costs of non-access are if one considers the enormous wealth of highly recognised research findings of researchers working with the microdata provided by LIS.

Research on the evolution of a European society, on economic, social and political integration can only be done if comparable data on

social structures and processes are available. Statistical offices make important contributions not only to information needs. Their contribution to substantive research is also indispensable and highly appreciated. However, due to the enormous research agenda which was described above the involvement of universities and research teams in other organisations outside the statistical offices is also necessary. A few countries, among which Great Britain and France occupy a prominent place, have already developed comprehensive national services to advance the use of national microdata. These may be important and pioneering efforts, but they do not suffice to create a modern European infrastructure for high-quality social research. It is evident that the current conditions of access to microdata are far from being satisfactory.

A research team, for example, interested in doing a historical cross-national study on stratification in the European Union, not to speak of the whole of Europe, would encounter enormous problems to get all the microdata it needs. Although the EU's Statistical Office (Eurostat) has meanwhile acquired a sizeable stock of microdata from national statistical offices, so far no possibilities exist to use these data for general scientific purposes outside Eurostat. According to a Council Regulation currently operative, microdata given to Eurostat by Member States may be used for statistical purposes only. The communication of data to third parties is not allowed. This regulation has been extended to also include microdata communicated by the members of the European Economic Area. Therefore, in order to do a comparative study, a research team would have to consult each statistical office separately to get access to national microdata. The team would have to comply with quite different rules, and in some countries access could even be denied if no native researcher was involved. The amount of money, time and energy necessary to accomplish this task is

so prohibitively high that as yet nobody has succeeded in preparing such a comparative study covering all European countries.

For various reasons the statistical office of the European Union is of crucial importance to comparative research. Eurostat's contribution to the harmonisation of statistics has been tremendous. The many methodological studies Eurostat organised dealing with the comparability of national statistics, governmental data services and meta-information systems are very helpful for many of us. Its cooperativeness regarding outside researchers is highly recognised. With its limited resources Eurostat tries hard to meet special data needs of individual researchers. The full exploitation of its potential contribution to comparative research is, however, significantly limited by two facts:

- the Office has no extra resources for data requested by outside users;
- the Office is subject to an extraordinarily strict data legislation.

In practice, the lack of extra resources to meet such demands leads to a situation where special services, e.g. the extraction of aggregate tables from microdata, cannot develop in such a way that they would meet the needs of comparative researchers. As a result, the scientific community cannot benefit from the enormous efforts made by Eurostat, supported by her national partners, to achieve an international harmonisation of national surveys. The currently operative legislation even leads to a situation where those countries that do allow access to microdata in the national context

cannot apply this principle to EU surveys. In Germany, for example, the combination of national and European regulations produces quite absurd results. Since the European Labour Force Survey is integrated into the national microcensus, the German Federal Bureau of Statistics sees no possibility of making the labour force survey available to the scientific community - although access to the microdata of the microcensus is granted.

In order to encourage economic and social research on Europe, some form of access to the Eurostat's microdata must be guaranteed. What is possible within many individual countries must also be possible at the European level. The 1994 draft for a Council Regulation 'On Community Action in the Field of Statistics' (CEC COM[94] 78 final) is a step in the right direction. According to article 17, '*Access to confidential data which do not allow direct identification may be granted to scientific research institutes, researchers and authorities responsible for the production of statistics other than Community statistics...*' under certain conditions. It remains to be seen, however, if this principle can be put into practice. It would be essential that Eurostat herself could act as a distributor. Otherwise, a comparativist research team would still have to deal with language barriers and organisational imponderabilities. The draft is still under discussion, but we all hope that there will be a breakthrough at the European level. Certainly not only the research community, but also our political decision makers - both at the EU and at the national level - would benefit from it.

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Gaston Schaber

CEPS / INSTEAD

Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et Politiques Socio-Economiques - International Networks for Studies in Technology, Environment, Alternatives, Development

The description below outlines the basic microdata-based activities of

the CEPS/INSTEAD. The Centre originates from a private, non-profit

organisation founded in 1978 for comparative, transnational research on persistent poverty in industrialised countries (within the framework of the first EC programme to combat poverty). In consequence of the steady development and complexification of its national and in-

ternational research activities, the Centre was given by Luxembourg law, in 1989, the status of a Public Establishment with scientific, administrative and financial autonomy. It has proven expertise in scientific, research-driven social and economic data production, with high-quality control at a national and international comparative level, and carries out and coordinates national, transnational and inter-regional research in the social sciences. It has, since its intellectual beginnings in 1978, developed and coordinated networks of European researchers, provided training facilities for researchers from a large number of countries and disciplines, and has created, through its integrated networks, comparability between data and systems of its partners.

The institute carries out micro-economic and micro-social studies and creates micro-economic and micro-social data bases,

- with the aim of developing instruments for analysing, programming and simulating socio-economic policies,
- producing innovative information, and adding value to conventional classical data by creating compatibility and comparability,
- developing innovative methodology and creating new information instruments, useful either for monitoring policies or for technology transfer.

CEPS/INSTEAD maintains close links with many major research institutes throughout the European Union, Central and Eastern Europe, the United States, the FSU, and elsewhere. It develops and consolidates its networks of research and researchers through the joint execution of transnational projects under contract. At present, these networks function mainly within the social sciences, but they are expanding to include progressively exact sciences and technology, so that the networks may make stronger contributions to the economic and social development, and

re-development, as well as re-investment, in the regions of Europe and elsewhere.

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)

The Luxembourg Income Study (the LIS Project) began in 1983 under the joint sponsorship of the Government of Luxembourg and CEPS/INSTEAD. It is now funded on a continuing basis by CEPS/INSTEAD and by the national science and social science research foundations of its member countries. The project has four goals:

- to test the feasibility for creating a database containing social and economic micro-data collected in household surveys from different countries;
- to provide a method allowing researchers to use the data under restrictions required by the countries providing the data;
- to create a system that would allow research requests to be received and returned to users at remote locations;
- to promote comparative research on the economic status of populations in different countries.

The project now has a membership that includes countries in Europe, North America, the Far East, and Australia. The database now contains information for more than 25 countries for one or more years, with negotiations constantly underway to add data from additional countries (including, at present for example, Korea, Russia, Portugal, and Mexico).

The LIS database has a total of over 60 datasets covering the period 1968 to 1992; the database is accessed globally via electronic mail networks by over 300 users in 28 countries. In addition to harmonised data, LIS users, who come from all areas of research activity, are offered extensive documentation concerning the technical aspects of the survey data, and concerning the social institutions of income provision in member countries.

LIS-based reports have appeared in books, articles and dissertations. LIS itself has published over 115 Working Papers (full list on request). The project conducts annual summer workshops to introduce researchers to the database, and to give scholars experience in cross-national analysis of social policy issues related to income distribution.

A LIS Newsletter is published twice yearly. Contact: Caroline de Tombeur, LIS at CEPS/INSTEAD, B.P. 65, L-7201 Walferdange, Luxembourg. Phone +352-333233 218, Fax +352-332705, Email caroline@post.ceps.lu

The Luxembourg Employment Study (LES)

Employing the LIS procedures to offer researchers controlled use of otherwise confidential and protected micro-data, a newer project, the **Luxemburg Employment Study (LES)** collects, standardises and makes available for remote use the micro-data from a set of labour force surveys from the early 1990's. The project is designed to facilitate the study of different labour market related issues, including analysis of labour market behaviour on an individual level, or in the frame of the household, of educational and occupational patterns, of retirement decisions ...

Currently, the LES database includes nine microdata sets: from Austria, Hungary, Luxembourg, Norway, United Kingdom, United States, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Sweden; datasets to be added in the near future will come from Finland, France, Spain, Poland and Switzerland.

Around 90 variables are being created, classified into 12 main groups: demographic background; work status; employment characteristics of main job; information on second job; previous work experience of persons not in employment; search for employment; situation of inactive persons; education and training; situation one year before sur-

vey; labour force status; earnings and income; technical items.

The Panel Comparability Project (PACO) for longitudinal studies of persons and households

Designed to overcome the technical and methodological problems facing the comparative researcher, and to maximise the potential of panel surveys for the analysis of dynamic change, the formal **PACO project** was initiated by CEPS/INSTEAD in 1992. It was based on earlier exploratory comparative work undertaken at CEPS/INSTEAD since 1986, and on activities developed between 1990 and 1993 under the aegis of a major network grant from the **European Science Foundation**. Work is currently nearing completion under the **Human Capital and Mobility** Programme of the European Commission.

PACO represents an innovative and centralised attempt to create the technical infrastructure for the comparative study of European social policy, through the creation of a database of comparable variables across different countries and over a larger number of years.

The PACO team adopted a technical and research strategy which combined centralised work at CEPS/INSTEAD with a dispersed network of researchers in the participating countries. Variable specification is the responsibility of all members of the research network, and is carried out jointly by all members of the research group.

The PACO database contains data from household panel studies in Luxembourg (PSELL), Germany (SOEP), Great Britain (BHPS), the United States (PSID) and France

(ESEML-Lorraine), for years ranging from 1986 through 1994. It consists of harmonised and standardised variables at cross-sectional and longitudinal level, for individuals and for households, with identical variable names, labels and value formats, and a common plan for definition and recoding. Development work is continuing on the PACO database, with data from household panel studies of other countries being added. Discussions are also underway with Russian and Belarussian researchers for inclusion of comparable data from national and regional studies. In addition, an independent but linked comparative database of information on social protection is under development at CEPS/INSTEAD.

A number of research papers based on the PACO files have been published in the series „Comparative Analysis of Longitudinal Data“ and can be ordered (Contact: Marcia Taylor, network coordinator; Gaston Schaber, PACO project director; Günther Schmaus, assistant project director).

The Panel Comparability Project on FIRMS

The Centre works at the development of longitudinal studies on firms since 1983 - and in a comparative perspective since 1988. The comparative programme runs for most of the partners at a regional level, not the national one: Lorraine in France, Walloon Region in Belgium, Southern Denmark, Lower Saxony, and (since 1995) the Moscow Region. Until recently, the main focus has been on industry; some partners are ready to include progressively segments of the service sector. This important module of the Centre's activities may be de-

scribed in a further issue of the EURODATA Newsletter.

At the national level, the Luxembourg Panel on Firms has been developed in order to set up a dynamic database referring to the structure of the economy and to the labour market,

- to design and test economic indicators,
- to evaluate the impact of public policy on the firms,
- to produce relevant information for decision makers in matters of education and training.

This very short presentation - which hopefully will be detailed in subsequent issues of this Newsletter - gives a summary view only of the major comparative ventures in operation at the Centre and within its networks. Such a view needs to be completed

(a) by a thorough description of the basic research tasks which the Centre performs at the level of the country it is rooted in, and without which the comparative endeavours could hardly be supported,

(b) by a more explicit presentation of the Centre's aim to contribute to the progressive development of better integrated information systems for monitoring changes and policies, and particularly to the development of a common research infrastructure in the economic and social sciences.

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Louise Corti

The QUALIDATA Resource Centre

A new resource funded by the „Economic and Social Research Council“ (ESRC) to archive qualitative materials in the UK

The need for a qualitative data archive policy

One of the most notable advances brought by the establishment of the Economic and Social Science Research Council (ESRC) was the creation of a national ESRC Data

Archive for machine-readable quantitative survey data. By insisting on adequate arrangements for the deposit of material arising from research it funds, ESRC has ensured that the progress of quantitative social research is cumulative. Crucial data can be re-analysed in the light of unexpected social changes and the new questions which each succeeding debate brings. Money spent on research becomes not only immediate outlay, but also investment for the future. The ESRC Data Archive currently has a staff of 28 to provide this crucial function.

Until October of 1994, ESRC had no explicit policy for depositing research material generated from the qualitative studies which it funds. As a result, over the last 25 years huge resources have been devoted to qualitative interview, ethnographic, case and anthropological studies but the data has often been destroyed, is untraceable or inaccessible.

Professor Paul Thompson and other members of the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex, seeing the need for a policy for archiving qualitative materials, carried out a pilot survey in 1991 which sought the views of academics who had undertaken qualitative research funded by the ESRC. The response was over-whelmingly positive; many of the social scientists responding agreed with the need to preserve such research material and welcomed the proposal for an ESRC initiative in this area.

Establishment of QUALIDATA

On the basis of these findings from the pilot study, the ESRC awarded Professor Thompson almost three quarters of a million pounds over 5 years to start up a Resource Centre to facilitate and document the archiving of qualitative material whilst also drawing the research communities' attention to its existence and potential. The Centre, QUALIDATA, is located within the Department of Sociology at Essex. Together with the Director, Profes-

or Paul Thompson, at present the Centre has four members of staff. The Centre's Advisory Committee is made up of experts in fields of relevance to the project, with the intention of representing the perspectives of the relevant disciplines and of the academic, government and policy, national library and archival, and media communities. Academic disciplines represented are sociology, social policy, anthropology, social and economic history, political science, social and human geography and social psychology and business studies.

QUALIDATA's first year

The main activities for the Centre in the first year have been:

1. Investigating potential repositories for depositing data such as interview transcripts and tape recording of interviews, diaries and field notes from selected projects. There are already some well-established archives at various locations around Britain specialising in related material. Amongst others, the Centre will use the National Sound Archive at the British Library, the Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex, the British Library of Political and Economic Science at LSE, the Modern Records Centre at Warwick University, the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford and the School of Scottish Studies at Edinburgh. Negotiations have focused on acquisitions policies, methods of cataloguing and facilities for storing and providing access to the holdings. A survey of all University libraries and Research Centres in Britain has been conducted to establish which already hold or would be prepared to hold qualitative materials.
2. Constructing a priority list of qualitative data projects considered to have high archival potential and whose investigators are agreeable to deposit. Criteria include the uniqueness and physical state of the research material as well as the anticipated degree of future usage. QUALIDATA has conducted two postal surveys of potential deposi-

tors; a follow-up of the original 1991 pilot survey of ESRC grant holders (sociologists and anthropologists); and a postal questionnaire sent to all holders of ESRC grants since 1970 who were thought to have used qualitative methods in their research. Furthermore, the Centre has had meetings with other major funders of social research to consider strategies for archiving qualitative data arising from studies they fund.

Ultimately, the Centre aims to implement a continuing strategy by which researchers will be encouraged to make their qualitative research material available to others.

3. Developing agreements with repositories and principal investigators for the deposit of material. These have focused largely on issues of confidentiality of the personal data and the implications for conditions of access as well as means of monitoring the research use of the material. QUALIDATA has drafted a set of guiding "Notes for Depositors" and a number of forms and legal documents regarding the processing of materials and conditions of deposit.

Year 2 and beyond

Although the first year was primarily a time for setting up the Centre and developing procedures for accessions, referral, depositing and cataloguing qualitative research materials, the Centre has processed a small number of datasets. In mid-1996, information about qualitative data sources will be available in printed and machine-readable form and accessible and searchable through JANET (the United Kingdom's joint academic network) and INTERNET. QUALIDATA will also have its own HOMEPAGE on the World Wide Web. Since the ESRC Data Archive are also based here at Essex, QUALIDATA are working together with them to ensure that some qualitative materials are available as machine-readable documents, the descriptions of which are accessible through their

own on-line bibliographic retrieval system (BIRON).

Resources for Research and Teaching

The Centre is committed to organising and hosting twice-yearly workshops to promote issues relevant to archiving and to facilitate secondary analysis of archived material, and to provide ESRC and other social science researchers with a forum for advice and exchange of experience on issues relating to qualitative research. The first of these workshops entitled "Archiving Qualitative Data: Questions for Researchers" was held in September 1995 at the National Sound Archive in London. The speakers invited had extensive experience in qualitative methods and archiving. Because the intention of this workshop was to stimulate a trickle down of information, participation was deliberately restricted to Directors, key researchers or lecturers with extensive experience in either doing or teaching qualitative research.

QUALIDATA will be linking in with other workshops hosted by the Department of Sociology at Essex

and other departments and centres. On May 1995, QUALIDATA contributed to a workshop at Essex on "Life-story Interviewing and Trauma" and will be participating in a second workshop at Essex in 1996 entitled "In the Money: Interviewing Financial Elites". It is hoped that these workshops will attract postgraduate students and that the ideas will feed into both undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

QUALIDATA is also looking into exploiting archived material to produce educational resources, such as those based on CD-ROM technology. In conjunction with the National Life Story Collection at the National Sound Archive, QUALIDATA hopes to contribute to making oral history and other research material available in multi-media form. The Centre believes that the use of new technologies will encourage research using primary sources at the primary, secondary and tertiary educational levels.

Endnote

Through its activities it is envisaged that the Centre will provide a general stimulus to the standards of

qualitative research and machine-readable storage of qualitative data in Britain as well as encouraging a more active interface between qualitative and quantitative research.

If you are:

- interested in depositing your qualitative materials,
- interested in a repository who would be keen to hold and make available qualitative data,
- are interested in obtaining qualitative data for future research or teaching,
- or would like further information about QUALIDATA,

please contact:

QUALIDATA Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ. Phone +44-1206-873058 Fax +44-1206-873410 E-mail quali@essex.ac.uk

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Yves Mény & Simon Towle

The Robert Schuman Centre

The Robert Schuman Centre (RSC) is an interdisciplinary research centre at the European University Institute (EUI) which began its activities in September 1993. Its principle aim is to promote research into the major issues confronting European society.

In 1993, the RSC consolidated and extended the research fields of its two predecessor research centres at the EUI, the European Culture Research Centre (ECC) and the European Policy Unit (EPU). The EPU was founded in 1984 to support research on the European Communities and to the related policy issues, internal and external, whereas the ECC, set up in 1987, promoted and coordinated research at the Institute in the sphere of culture.

There are several aspects to the Centre's research activities. Each year, under the Jean Monnet Fellowship Scheme, post-doctoral research grants are awarded at the RSC to enable academics to conduct research for a maximum period of one year on issues connected with the Centre's research programme. The RSC also runs the Jean Monnet Chair programme, in which distinguished persons from politics (e.g. Giuliano Amato, Egon Bahr, Elisabeth Guigou) or the academic world (e.g. Eckhard Reh binder, Fritz Scharpf, Horst Siebert) are invited to visit the RSC for brief periods to speak on subjects focusing on major research areas at the Centre.

The Robert Schuman Centre supports a number of inter-disciplinary working groups at the Institute which encourage exchanges between researchers, Jean Monnet Professors and both internal and external professors. Additionally, the Centre is responsible for the coordination of research and assistance projects, providing the necessary intellectual, organisational and (in some cases) financial support, whilst at the same time contributing to the strengthening of cooperation networks in Europe and beyond, in areas which form part of its programme.

The Centre's academic programme takes the form of seminars, workshops, round tables, conferences, and (Jean Monnet Chair) lectures. For the last two years, the Robert Schuman Centre has also organised an Environmental Summer Workshop, in July 1994, „Environment in Europe: The Implementation Challenge“, and in July 1995, „Environment in Europe: In Search of Flexible and Efficient Instruments“. The Summer Workshop brings together policy-makers, environmental experts, practising lawyers and academics, and through a series of intensive lectures and workshops on environmental law and policies, seeks to further the understanding and functioning of the laws and policies under discussion.

The director of the Robert Schuman Centre is Professor Yves Mény, formerly Professor at the Institute d'Etudes Politiques, Paris. The RSC has also instituted a programme creating Joint Professorship Chairs with the four departments of the EUI (economics, law, history, and political science). The first of 10 joint chairs has been awarded to Michael Artis (economics). The team is completed by Simon Towle (Doctor EUI), Research Associate, secretaries, Annette Merlan, Monique Cavallari, and Dorothea Detring. Additional members of the RSC for 1995 are research associates, Dr. Jonathan Golub (European environmental policy) and Dr. Martin Rhodes (social policy and the future of the European welfare states).

The Research Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre

The Robert Schuman Centre has committed itself to a research programme, or framework programme, as a general guideline for its re-

search activities for the period 1993-1997, the precise content of which is elaborated during this period both according to the evolution of problems and policies in Europe and through collaboration programmes with other research centres. The programme intends to develop as far as possible original, inter-disciplinary, policy-oriented research.

The framework has three principal areas of enquiry:

1) What is Europe?

This area of research, which embodies one of the fundamental reasons for the establishment of the Centre, seeks to examine the question of Europe's identity, to select and subject to further enquiry the political problems of the Union (public policy, institutions) and to study the relations between the European Union and the outside world, focusing in particular on Central Europe, the Mediterranean, and Asia.

2) Socio-political problems of Europe

In this context, the Centre's objective is to address the complex issues relating to the social and economic transformations which are rocking the foundations of European society. This is felt by institutions, legal systems, social structures (such as the family, trade unions, parties, etc.), through the destabilisation of elites, the questioning of value-systems and solidarity networks. The economic crisis and unemployment, which result from this destabilisation process, have consequences which go much further than simply to change individual or collective wealth: strain to social welfare, new forms of social exclusion, spatial polarisation of poverty, to mention but a few. The RSC aims to set up research projects, focusing on certain poignant issues in this respect, including emigration and citizenship, insecurity and urban impoverishment.

3) The „import/export“ of policies and institutions

This expression conveniently describes the processes of imitation, exchange or mimicry governing the construction or functioning of public as well as private systems. These phenomena may result from external domination or from innovation by elites (political, legal, economic actors) seeking to modify the economic or political system to which they belong. The research of the Centre seeks not so much to assess the results of such competition, but rather to analyse the groups mobilised in these exchanges or imitations (lawyers, journalists, policy-makers, etc.).

Within this framework, the RSC carries out several projects, amongst others:

- **The Reform of European Institutions:** the activities of this programme include inquiry into a comparative study into the relationship between legitimacy and democracy in federal system, the ways in which European Union policies can respond to the technical complexity of modern societies, as well as an analysis into the problems relating to the establishment of European Administrative agencies.
- **The Policies of Law and Order in Europe:** This programme undertakes an in depth inquiry into the roles of the police and judiciary and examination of their mutual interaction. Analysis will also be given to the historical evolution of policy functions (public order, criminal investigations) in different countries, on issues such as the influence of drug-trafficking on law enforcement organisations, the culture of police forces and the judiciary of Europe, and organisational strategies against politico-administrative crime.

Assistance / Consultancy at the Robert Schuman Centre

The RSC manages two projects in collaboration with the European Commission, DG-I TACIS:

- **The project to strengthen the Georgian Parliamentary Research Service:** There are several aspects to this project, which is being administered at the RSC. It involves the creation of a parliamentary library, and the installation of information technology to enable it to provide the requisite parliamentary research and information services, the training of the Georgian PRS staff, through courses organised in Tbilisi and in Europe, through fellowships to Western Parliamentary Research Services. Finally, the project foresees study trips for Georgian MPs to European States to help familiarise them with western democratic traditions.
- **The Russian Duma Project:** The aim of this project is to train Russian MPs in democratic parliamentary traditions. The project will involve teaching of courses in Russia, and study trips to Western European parliaments, and visits to Russian electoral constituencies.

Working Groups

The RSC supports the following Working Groups:

- **Working Group on Environmental Studies:** This group was set up in 1987, and has created an extensive network of contacts with environmental institutes around the world. It promotes research seminars and has also organised conferences, such as its 1992 conference on environmental and transport issues in Europe, and in 1994, on access to environmental justice.
- **Working Group on International Relations:** This group was established in 1993 and seeks to promote the interdisciplinary study of international relations, providing a spe-

cifically European focus for the discussion of international relations. Seminars are held by members of the Institute and external experts, and, in 1994, a workshop was organised on „Approaches to European Multilateralism“.

- **Working Group on Central and Eastern Europe:** The interdisciplinary group was established in 1991 with a view to addressing policy problems in Western, Central and Eastern Europe. In 1992, a conference was held on „Impediments to the Transition: The Eastern European Countries and the Policies of the European Community“, and in 1993, workshops were held on „Industrial relations, unions and labour markets in Central and Eastern Europe in Transition“, and „Privatisation and Property Rights“.
- **Working Group on „Gender and Society“:** Set up in 1990, the group has organised a series of seminars on „Women’s citizenship in Europe from the 18th to the 20th century and the relationship between the public and private spheres“, and workshops on „The rights of woman“ (in honour on Mary Wollstonecraft’s „A vindication of the rights of woman“, and on „Gender and labour law“.

Some RSC Working Papers:

Scharpf, F.W.: Community and Autonomy. Multilevel Policy-Making in the European Union. (No. 94/1)

Horiuchi, T.: Japanese Public Policy for Cooperative Supply of Credit Guarantee to Small Firms - Its Evolution since the Post War and Banks’ Commitment. (No. 94/3)

Tarrow, S.: Social Movements in Europe: Movement Society of Europeanization of Conflict? (No. 94/8)

Dimitrijevic, V.: The 1974 Constitution as a Factor in the Collapse of Yugoslavia or as a Sign of Decaying Totalitarianism. (No. 94/9)

Uvalic, M.: Privatization in Disintegrating East European States: The Case of Former Yugoslavia. (No. 94/11)

Weiler, J.: European Democracy and its Critique: Five Uneasy Pieces. (No. 95/11)

Some Jean Monnet Chair Papers:

Amato, G.: Problems of Governance - Italy and Europe: A Personal Perspective. (No. 94/17)

Williamson, J.: Proto-EMU as an Alternative to Maastricht. (No. 95/22)

Siebert, H.: Eastern Germany in the Fifth Year. Investment Hammering in the Basement? (No. 95/24)

Schofield, N.: Modelling Political Order in Representative Democracies. (No. 95/26)

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Family Changes and Family Policies in the Western World

An international research project

The project studies family changes and family policies in twenty Western countries since World War II in a long-term perspective, although focusing on the period since the 1960s. The studies include most Western European countries, Poland and Hungary, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand. The project has grown out of recognition of the increased interest in systematic and comparative research and the lack of comprehensive and comparative studies based on a set of standardised data. The special gap this project fills is that of describing and analysing the „big“, macro picture of family change and family policies, placing these developments in historical as well as comparative perspective.

Variations in Western countries are being studied comprehensively, drawing on expertise in demography, family sociology, political science, economics, family law, social policy and family policy. The project studies general trends and national developments in family formation, family structure and family functions as well as family-related trends with regard to (female) employment, household income, and expenditure patterns. It examines policy responses, such as child care policies, parenting policies, family allowances, and other family cash and tax benefits. It will also look on family and child-related aspects of social security and the welfare state in general. The broader context of main economic and social trends and of politics are also part of each country's analysis.

Standardised country reports and comparative studies are produced by the project members. They will be published in seven volumes at Oxford University Press in 1996 and 1997. Five volumes with twenty country reports focus on country specific developments. They analyse

the patterns of national family policy regarding family structure, the economy and the labour market, and the welfare state. The main purposes are, first, to give a comprehensive empirical description of developments, and, second, to draw an analytic „profile“ of national family policy that could be caused by broader structural and institutional characteristics of the society, such as social and political cleavages, value patterns and attitudes, economic and labour market structures, and the institutional foundations of the welfare state.

The first comparative volume focuses on family changes, including chapters on the institutional formation of the family as expressed in family law, and on the relationship between the family and employment. The second comparative volume focuses on family policies, including chapters on comparisons of single programmes and measures and an analysis of policy „packages“ and of the different types or „régimes“ of family policy. The comparative studies are mainly based on the country reports and systematic data files.

A data file on family policies and family-related social policies is being set up at the MZES while the project is still in progress. This is done in close cooperation with EURODATA, where a number of related data files exist, e.g. on demography, family and household structures, employment, national economic accounts, and social expenditures. One major purpose of these data files is to provide a basis for systematic comparative and historical analyses. The data files will not only serve the purposes of the current project, but will be updated regularly after the project will have been concluded. They will be open to further analyses.

The project is directed by Peter Flora (MZES, University of Mannheim), Sheila Kamerman and Alfred Kahn (Columbia University School of Social Work, New York). It started in 1993 and will be concluded in 1997/1998. The MZES is the site of coordination. Thomas Bahle is the executive coordinator. The project is financed from various national sources. The coordination at the MZES is financed by the German Science Foundation.

At present, twenty country research teams participate in the project. The teams are set up by the following principal researchers: Austria (Gerda Neyer, Institute of Demography at the Austrian Academy of Sciences), Belgium (Peter Flora), Canada (Maureen Baker, Montreal), Denmark (Vita Pruzan, Danish National Institute of Social Research), Finland (Matti Alestalo, Tampere), France (Christoph Starzec, INSEE, Paris), Germany (Thomas Bahle and Franz Rothenbacher, MZES), Greece (Laura Alipranti, National Centre of Social Research, Athens), Hungary (Rudolf Andorka, Budapest), Italy (Chiara Saraceno, Torino), Netherlands (Anton Kuijsten, Amsterdam), New Zealand (Ian Pool, Population Studies Centre, Hamilton), Norway (Jon Eivind Kolberg, Institute of Applied Social Research, Oslo), Poland (Stanislawa Golinowska, Institute of Labour and Social Sciences, Warsaw), Spain (Lluís Flaquer, Barcelona), Sweden (Ulla Björnberg, Göteborg), Switzerland (Beat Fux, Zurich and Mannheim), United Kingdom (Stein Ringen, Oxford), United States of America (Sheila Kamerman and Alfred Kahn).

International research project

The 1990 Population Censuses in East and South-East Europe

in the Western World

Directors:

This contribution deals with the censuses of population (often at the same time censuses of buildings, housing and agricultural enterprises) which were carried out around 1990 in the east and south-east European transition countries.

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When the former *Soviet Union* still existed the last population census was held in 1989. As was the case with preceding censuses, the results of the 1989 census were published for the whole territory and are available in printed form in Russian. The 1989 census is the first Soviet census which is also distributed on microfiche and on diskette (by East View Publications (USA)). The microfiche edition is supplemented by a bilingual Russian/English „companion guide“ leading through the twelve volumes of the all-union population census.

Some successor states of the former Soviet Union have published additional results separately:

Estonia also analysed and published - together with the Estonian results of the 1989 census - the results of the Estonian parts of the all-union censuses of 1959, 1970 and 1979 in a 2-volume bilingual edition (Estonian/English). In the past, data from the older censuses were available for a wider public in publications covering the whole Soviet Union only.

Lithuania published its country results in 1991 in three volumes in Lithuanian. These contain comparisons with the 1979 census and partly go back to the census of 1959.

In *Albania*, the population census of 1989 was the first one to be published in English and according to international recommendations. This publication was produced in 1991 with technical support from the United Nations Statistical Divi-

sion (UNSTAT). This census publication improved the supply of statistical data tremendously.

In *Hungary*, a population census was held in 1990. As the previous censuses, it was carried out in the first year of the decade. The comprehensive publication covering the census comprises all in all 27 volumes. The first three volumes deal with „preliminary data“ (vol.1), „summary data on a 2% sample“ (vol.2) and „summary data“ (full analysis) (vol.3). Volumes 4-23 contain data on all of the 19 counties. In addition, there exist a number of thematic volumes on „households and families“ (24), „economic activity“ (25), „demographic structures“ (27) and „active earners“. The analysis of the 1990 census paved the way for the analysis and publication of some of the historical censuses. Thus, the results of the censuses of 1850 and 1857 were published in a modern form. Another 2-volume edition dealing with the history of the Hungarian censuses from 1869-1990 documents the methods of data collection and the assessed resp. published variables. With the exception of volumes 2 and 3, which have been translated into English, all titles are available in Hungarian only. But the translation of the tables of contents into English is very helpful for the user.

Bulgaria carried out its most recent census in 1992, the previous one being organized in 1985. The publications programme consists of eight national thematic volumes on „demographic characteristics of the population“ (vol.1), „socio-economic characteristics of the population“ (vol.2), „population by districts, municipalities and settlements“ (vol.3), „households“ (vol.

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4), „families“ (vol.5), „internal migration“ (vol.6), „invalids“ (vol.7) and „graduates from higher, college, general and vocational education“ (vol.8). Another series of titles deals with data from the housing census. Volume 1 of this series presents „basic characteristics of housing fund“, volume 2 „living conditions of the population“, volume 3 „the country's housing fund“. Moreover, a series of regional publications exists: a volume on the housing stock and the living conditions of the population is published for each of the nine districts. The data are presented on the levels of regions, municipalities and settlements. Another regional series consists of 28 volumes - one for each region - and contains data on „demographic and socio-economic characteristics and housing fund by municipalities and settlements“. All these titles are published in Bulgarian only. Selected results regarding the status of the population and housing stock are presented in a publication which is available in English and French. Compared to the census of 1985, the publishing programme has been extended enormously.

The population census of 1991 in former *Czechoslovakia* was carried out when the country was still united. As in earlier censuses, the results have been published for the three levels of the federation and both federal states separately. Due to the separation of the country into the now independent states of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, most of the published volumes refer to the successor states only. The publications programme has significantly grown in volume. With the exception of a small number of titles, the bulk of the edition is published in the native language.

In *Poland*, following the 1978 census which was held ahead of schedule, the eighth census since 1918 was carried out as early as 1988. This census is the most comprehensive one to date. The data collection covers the socio-demographic structure of the population, households and families, and buildings and dwellings. The results have been published in a large number of tabular volumes. All titles are in Polish, with the exception of some tables of contents that have been translated into English. In addition, many volumes include a historical-comparative perspective referring to the census of 1978. By the end of 1994, 18 volumes had been published.

Romania carried out its most recent census in 1992, that is after the revolution, with the previous one being organized in 1977. The publications covering the census include some titles with preliminary data and data analysis based on samples. An English volume presents „General Results“; these data were collected according to the „Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses“ of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The other three volumes contain detailed results according to national classifications, all of them in Romanian. Volume 1 presents data on „population and demography“, volume 2 the „socio-economic structure of the population“, and volume 3 deals with data on „buildings, dwellings and households“. One feature of Romanian statistics is that they are strongly oriented towards international and western standards and that they have an extended programme of data presentation.

In the former *Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia* (FSRJ), the most recent census was held in 1991, following the previous one of 1981. Planning and preparation of this census was still in the tradition of Yugoslav censuses. The division of the country into several independent countries influenced the publication of the results. In most of

the now independent states the statistical systems have been modernized and are oriented to western models. This becomes evident not only if one looks at the design of the publications, but also - and this is more important - if one considers the statistical concepts used and the type of data published. Another sign is the bilingualism (native language/English), which is now to be found regularly in the Statistical Yearbooks.

In *Slovenia*, the results of the „Census of population, households, housing and agricultural holdings“ of 1991 have been published in larger volumes („Results of Surveys“) and numerous bulletins (the series „Statistical information“). While the bulletin series is still in Slovenian, the main volumes are published bilingually in Slovenian/English. The first main volume (Results of surveys, no. 617/1994) gives a historical and methodological introduction going back to the first census of 1921 and includes an inventory of assessed items. Some data go back to the first Austrian census carried out in 1857 in the later territory of Slovenia.

In *Croatia*, the results of the census of 1991 have been published in a series of comprehensive volumes. Each of these volumes deals with a special topic and presents data for each settlement in Croatia. The publications are all issued in Croatian but an English table of contents is included in some cases. So far, a number of volumes have been published, covering the ethnical composition of the population (documentation no. 881, 1992), age and sex (no. 882, 1994), religion and mother tongue (no. 883, 1994), educational status, literacy and sex (no. 884, 1994), economic activity of the domestic population (no. 885, 1994), agricultural population by activity status and sex (no. 886, 1994), households and families (no. 887, 1994), dwellings (no. 888, 1994) and usable dwellings and their equipment (no. 895, 1994).

In the *Republic of Macedonia*, the definitive results of the census of 1991 were published in the series „Statistical Review“ in seven volumes. In this main series of Macedonian statistics the results of the censuses of 1981, 1971, 1961 and 1948 were published. The publication of the results for 1991 continues this tradition. As yet, all titles are in Macedonian. Volume number 226 contains „basic data on the population of municipalities“, no.228 „economic activity“, no.230 „workers by social characteristics“, no.232 „citizens living abroad“, no.237 „demographic, educational and economic characteristics of the population“, no.240 „citizens working abroad“ and no.241 „immigrants“. These volumes are supplemented by others providing preliminary figures. It is characteristic for the situation in the former Yugoslavia that Macedonia carried out another population census as early as June 1994.

In the *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* (SRJ) (Serbia and Montenegro), the results of the population census were published by the Federal Statistical Office in several series. As early as 1991 four volumes with classifications and nomenclatures for the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were published. However, the published factual data refer to Yugoslavia in its present borders only. Population figures have been published in seven volumes; apart from these, three volumes on agricultural enterprises and - so far - two volumes on the dwelling stock have been issued. The seven volumes on the population deal with population structure, households and families, the ethnic composition of the population, age and sex and economic activity. All these data are available down to the level of settlements.

If one looks at common developments in east European transition economies one can see that in some countries the population censuses were planned and carried out prior to the transition phase; the results, however, were published during the

phase of transition. This is the case with Poland (1988), the former Soviet Union (1989), Albania (1989) and Hungary (1990). In these countries, the transition influenced both data analysis and the publication of results. Central trends are now a growing bilingualism (native language/English; in the inter-war period. French was still the lingua franca in these countries), a general modernisation of the statistical systems, the improvement of visual presentation and the analysis of as yet unpublished material - especially in a historical perspective.

Those countries which carried out censuses even after the beginning of their transition must be separated from this group: Romania (1992) and Bulgaria (1992). The Czech and the Slovak Republic are special cases. The structure of the census of 1991 still followed the national pattern, but the dissolution of the former Czechoslovakia brought new demands with it. The census of 1991 in the former Yugoslavia is also a special case due to political developments. The former Federal Statistical Office began to analyse the data; after the breakdown, however, the former federal states analysed and published the results independently. But this does not constitute a historical change: the preceding censuses of 1981 and before were - in addition to the Federal results - analysed and published separately. What is new, however, is a noticeable modernisation of statistics and an orientation to international standards.

Franz Rothenbacher

European Social Indicators

This introduces a new section within EURODATA Newsletter. In each issue from now on a table named „European Social Indicators“ will give a selection of social indicators for the countries of Western Europe in a cross-sectional perspective.

Data are presented for the most recent available year, that is in most cases for 1992. A complete list of social indicators will be presented in each autumn edition of this newsletter. The spring edition will publish an extended list of social indicators on special topics as for instance the labour market, the working environment, demography, household and family, housing conditions, education, or social policy indicators, as for example indicators on family policy. The indicators presented generally relate to annual data and not to quarterly or monthly data.

I would like to mention that this section on European social indicators has very much been inspired by the social indicators lists of various journals on living conditions: first of all *Canadian Social Trends*, which presents a list of social indicators for nine living domains and a special table on annual labour force estimates on the last pages of the journal in each issue. Some forty

indicators are presented. They embrace the living domains population, family, labour force, income, education, health, justice, government, and economy.

Furthermore, the Swedish *Välfärds Bulletinen* (Welfare Bulletin), which occasionally publishes specific social indicators as part of their articles.

The Norwegian *Samfunnspeilet. Tidsskrift om levekår og livsstil* (Mirror of society. Journal on living conditions and life-style) presents in its section „Sosiale indikatorer fra SSB“ graphs of social indicators with ten-year time series. They include the domains population, health, education, labour, income and consumption, social care, culture, housing and environment and criminality. Thirty indicators are covered.

The quarterly Finnish journal *Hyvinvointi Katsaus* (Bulletin on well-being) publishes a table on time series social indicators for

eight living domains and all in all 38 indicators in the first number of each year. The living domains are: population and families, labour force, income and wages, consumption, health, justice, environment, general economic indices.

This section on social indicators is in some respect experimental. Individual indicators may change as data availability and improvements in social measurements will be achieved. New living domains may be added or existing ones be extended by additional indicators. Policy indicators could be included in order to quantify the input side, too. And additional countries could be added, especially those of east and south-east Europe. Another topic for the future could be the clustering of countries, and calculating indices of central tendency and dispersion.

Find the table on the following pages 22-23.

Franz Rothenbacher is sociologist within 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:

DEMTSDB	Demographic Time Series Data Base, EURODATA, MZES.
HFSDB	Household and Family Statistics Data Base, EURODATA, MZES.
CoE	Council of Europe, Strasbourg.
1	Presse- u. Informationsamt der Bundesregierung (ed.): Sozialpolitische Umschau, no. 23/1995, 12 June 1995, p. 17.
2	Presse- u. Informationsamt der Bundesregierung (ed.): Sozialpolitische Umschau, no. 18/1995, 8 May 1995, p. 24.
A	1992;
B	1991;
C	1990;
D	1989;
E	1988;
F	1987.
G	former „West Germany“.
H	Civilian active employed population. Probably small underestimation.

	Source	Year	A	B	CH	D	DK	E
POPULATION								
Number, July 1 (000s)	DEMTSDB	1993	7,913.8	10,084.5	6,988.9	81,338.0	5,189.4	39,082.5
Annual growth (%)	DEMTSDB	1992/93	9.7	3.9	6.5	4.5	3.7	-0.1
Net migration (% of pop.)	DEMTSDB	1993	8.1	2.6	3.9	5.7	2.8	-1.3
Total Fertility Rate	CoE	1993	1.51	1.62 ^C	1.56	1.28	1.75	1.24
Crude Death Rate (%)	DEMTSDB	1993	10.3	10.6	9.4	11.0	12.1	8.7
HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES								
Mean private household size	HFSDB	1991	2.54	2.49	2.33 ^C	2.25 ^G	2.25	3.27
Single parent families (%)	EUROSTAT	1990/91		14.6		15.4 ^G	20.8	7.9
1-person households (% of pop.)	HFSDB	1991	11.5	11.3	13.4 ^C	15.3 ^F	15.3	4.1
Total First Marriage Rate	CoE	1992	0.58	0.65	0.71	0.64 ^G	0.61	0.66 ^B
Total Divorce Rate	CoE	1992	0.34	0.39	0.36	0.30 ^G	0.42	
Births out-of-wedlock								
- % all live births	DEMTSDB	1992	25.2	11.1 ^D	6.2	14.9	46.5 ^B	10.0 ^B
- per 10000 non-marr. women 15-44	DEMTSDB	1992	214	153	71	98 ^{FG}	456	
LABOUR FORCE								
Total active population (000s)	OECD	1991	3,607	4,210	3,602	30,576 ^G	2,903	15,382
Agriculture (%)	OECD	1991	7.9	2.7	5.5	3.2 ^G	5.4	10.4
Industry (%)	OECD	1991	36.9	28.1	34.4	38.6 ^G	26.0	32.3
Services (%)	OECD	1991	55.2	69.3	60.0	58.2 ^G	68.6	57.3
Total unemployment (%)	2	1994	6.5	10.0	4.7	8.4	10.3	24.1
Women's participation (% of civilian active population)	OECD	1991	41.1	42.7	38.3	41.5 ^G	46.9	35.9
INCOME								
Income distribution:		various;						
- lowest 20 %	IBRD	1978-89		7.9	5.2	7.0	5.4	8.3
- highest 10 %	IBRD			21.5	29.8	24.4	22.3	21.8
Poverty (%) [50% of average equivalent expenditures]	EUROSTAT	ca. 1988		6.6		12.0 ^G	4.2	17.5
EDUCATION								
Total education enrolment (000s)	OECD	1992	1,372.6 ^B	1,813.7	1,121.9	10,454.8 ^G	947.8	8,638.5
Primary education enrolment (%)	OECD	1992	27.0	41.0	38.9	24.8 ^G	34.5	30.8
Secondary education enrolment (%)	OECD	1992	54.4	45.1	49.7	57.5 ^G	48.5	54.1
Higher education enrolment (%)	OECD	1992	18.7	13.9	11.5	17.7 ^G	17.0	15.1
Female higher educ. enrolment (%)	OECD	1992	44.7	49.3	36.8	40.8 ^G	50.9	51.2
Public expend. on educ. (% of GDP)	IBRD	1990	5.0	5.7	5.0	4.1 ^G	7.0	3.9
HEALTH								
Infant mortality rate (‰)	DEMTSDB	1993	6.5	8.3	5.6	5.8	6.6 ^A	7.6
Male life expectancy 65 (years)	WHO	1991	14.9	14.2	15.6	14.2	14.4	15.5 ^C
Female life expectancy 65 (years)	WHO	1991	18.3	18.6	20.1	18.0	18.1	19.2 ^C
Public expend. on health (% of GDP)	IBRD	1990	7.1	7.3	7.1	8.4 ^G	6.3	5.2
SOCIAL PROTECTION								
Social protection expenditure (% of GDP at market prices)	EUROSTAT	1993		27.6		31.0	33.2	24.0
Social protection expenditure per capita (ECU)	EUROSTAT	1993		4,930.2		6,234.7	7,379.9	2,508.0
ECONOMIC INDICATORS								
GDP per capita at current prices and current PPPs (US dollars)	OECD	1993	19,118	19,510	23,189	18,506	19,150	13,304
Real GDP per cap., ann. growth (%)	OECD	1993/92	-1.4	-1.4	-1.8	-1.8	1.1	-1.2
Annual inflation rate (%)	2	1994	3.0	2.4	0.9	3.0	2.0	4.8

Introduction, notes and abbreviations on page 21

F	GR	I	IRL	L	N	NL	P	S	SF	UK
57,666.8	10,368.2	57,516.6	3,563.3	398.1	4,324.8	15,290.2	9,867.7	8,771.6	5,066.4	58,191.0
5.1	5.3	0.0	4.0	14.1	5.8 ^A	6.9	0.2	11.8	4.8	3.2
1.9	4.8	0.1	0.6 ^A	10.5	2.2 ^A	3.1	0.6	9.4	2.0	1.4
1.65	1.35	1.25 ^A	2.02 ^A	1.70	1.86	1.57	1.53	2.0	1.82	1.79 ^A
9.2	9.4	9.4	8.7 ^A	9.8	10.4 ^A	9.0	10.7	11.1	10.1	11.3
2.57 ^C	3.12	2.83	3.34	2.61	2.40 ^C	2.40	3.12	2.14 ^C	2.42 ^C	2.48
10.7	5.7	6.4	10.8	12.2		12.2	12.5			16.0
10.3	5.1		5.9	9.6	14.2		4.4	17.6		10.4
0.53	0.59	0.66 ^C	0.67 ^B	0.67	0.49 ^B	0.63	0.87	0.50	0.56	0.58 ^B
0.33 ^B	0.12	0.07		0.36	0.40 ^B	0.29		0.48	0.43	0.44 ^B
31.8 ^B	2.6	6.3 ^C	18.0	12.7	42.9	12.5	15.6 ^B	48.2 ^B	28.9	30.9
362			204		461	133		557	288	381
24,620	4,185 ^B	24,899	1,334	169.5	2,126	7,011	5,142	4,552	2,559	28,290
5.6	22.2	8.3	13.7	3.2	5.9	4.5	17.3	3.2	8.5	2.2
28.8	25.7	31.5	28.6	30.1	23.6	25.2	33.3	28.2	29.3	28.0
65.6	52.1	60.2	57.7	66.7	70.5	70.3	49.4	68.5	62.2	69.9
12.6	9.4 (1993)	11.3	15.1	3.5	5.2	7.0	7.0	9.8	18.4	9.2
44.2	37.1 ^C	37.7	32.5	37.4	46.1	40.1	44.3	48.1 ^H	47.7	43.1
5.6		6.8			6.2	8.2		8.0	6.3	4.6
26.1		25.3			21.2	21.9		20.8	21.7	27.8
14.9	20.8	22.0	16.4	9.2		6.2	26.5			17.0
11,643.6	1,810.1	9,861.6	866.9	50.4 ^D	833.4	3,025.3	2,049.3 ^B	1,486.7	1,012.6	11,596.3
34.8	43.7	30.4	47.6	49.1 ^D	37.0	36.8	50.0 ^B	40.4	38.8	43.2
49.4	46.6	53.9	42.2	48.9 ^D	46.4	49.1	41.6 ^B	45.6	44.1	47.9
15.8	9.8	15.7	10.3	2.0 ^D	16.6	14.1	8.4 ^B	13.9	17.2	8.9
53.8	52.2	49.3	47.6	35.8 ^D	53.1	45.7	60.1 ^B	54.0	52.7	47.0
4.9	3.6	5.4	3.6	6.9	5.6	4.7	4.6	5.4	5.6	4.2
6.6	8.3	7.4	6.6 ^A	6.0	5.9 ^A	6.2	8.6	4.8	4.4	6.3
16.2	15.9	15.1 ^C	13.4	14.5	14.9	14.6	13.7	15.4 ^C	14.1	14.3
20.9	18.4	19.1 ^C	17.1	18.6	19.0	19.2	17.1	19.2 ^C	18.2	18.0
9.8	4.7	7.3	6.9	5.1	7.5	7.2	5.6	8.3	6.7	5.3
30.9	16.3	25.8	21.4	24.9		33.6	18.3		25.4 ^A	27.8
5,725.9	1,202.2	3,834.0	2,423.0	6,677.5		5,806.4	1,336.8		5,759.6 ^A	3,846.8
18,702	8,785	17,823	13,852	28,359	19,060	17,587	11,815	16,823	15,583	17,030
-1.5	0.1	-1.0	3.6	1.6	2.8	-0.4	-1.2	-3.1	-2.1	2.3
1.7	10.9	3.7	2.4	2.2	1.4	2.7	5.2	2.2	1.1	2.4

Introduction, notes and abbreviations on page 21



Country Profile: **ITALY**

by Jürgen Schweikart

Italy is one of the world's leading western industrial nations today and is competing with France for fourth place. Practically no other European country has experienced such a rapid transformation from a destroyed, strongly agrarian society into a modern industrial state.

The "Repubblica Italiana" is one of the founding members of the European Union. No other member state has such extreme spatial disparities as does this mediterranean country. It is not just 1200 km that lie between the north and the south; the per-capita gross domestic product is more than twice as high in the north and the birth rate is approximately 50% higher than in the south. A harmonisation of these disparities is not in sight.

Regional Disparities

The spatial disparities in Italy are so enormous that even all European regions taken together do not exceed these dimensions. If one looks at the spatial disparities in Europe in terms of unemployment rates by the late 1980s, 6 Italian regions rank among the 20 regions with the highest rates; at the same time, Lombardy belongs to those 20% that have the lowest unemployment rates (Pohl 1995).

Doubtlessly, Italy's marked north-south divide is the result of a long historical process. The question is, however, how far back its roots reach. When Italy was part of the Roman Empire, it had a uniform social system (Vivanti 1980). The invasion of the Langobards brought about a division of the country into a "barbarian" part and a Byzantine part. Consequently, the north developed into a society open for modernisation and innovation, while the

history of the South was characterised by exploitation and feudalism (King 1992). This division was never overcome and is not only visible in statistical indicators, but also in the relationship between north and south Italians. The emergence and the success of the Lega Lombarda is an expression of this relationship.

Another question in this context is to what extent regional disparities have changed since the completion of the Italian national state in 1870. On the part of the state, many at-

tempts have been made to reduce these disparities. Transfer payments and support of the regional economies were meant to strengthen especially the south's economy. It is obvious that despite comprehensive measures no harmonisation worth mentioning has taken place. The share of the Mezzogiorno in the gross national product, for instance, has not changed and accounts for about 25% (Dunford 1988).

If one looks at the harmonised unemployment rates published by EUROSTAT on the basis of the 95 Italian provinces during the past ten years as an example, it becomes evident that the imbalances have even increased. The variation coefficient of the unemployment rate of all Italian provinces has increased substantially since 1983.

Whereas in Italy as a whole the unemployment rate rose from 8.5% to 11.1% during 1983-1993, this in-

Table: Statistical comparisons

	Year	Italy total	North/Central	Mezzogiorno	EU-12
Population (000s)	1991	56778	36241	20537	344704
Inhab. per km ²	1991	188.5	203.3	166.9	146
Rates per 1000 inhab.					
Births	1992	9.9	8.3	12.5	11.8
Deaths	1992	9.5	10.2	8.3	10.1
Rates per 1000 births					
infant mortality	1992	8.4	6.5	10.4	7.5
Stillbirths	1991	5.5	4.6	6.5	5.1 ^A
Age structure					
under 15 (%)	1991	16.3	13.7	20.6	18.2
15-64 (%)	1991	68.9	70.0	67.1	67.3
65 and older (%)	1991	14.8	16.3	12.3	14.5
GDP (in PPS)					
Per capita	1991	16174	18960	11259	14752
Growth (%)	1990-1	+6.9	+6.9	+6.9	+7.0
Sectoral employment					
Agriculture (%)	1991	8.2	5.5	14.4	6.4
Industry (%)	1991	31.9	35.3	24.0	33.3
Services (%)	1991	59.9	59.2	61.6	60.3
Economic activity rate					
Total (%)	1992	42.4	44.6	38.8	54.6 ^B
Female (%)	1992	30.9	34.0	25.6	42.6 ^B
Unemployment					
Total (%)	1992	11.5	7.1	20.4	9.4
Females (%)	1992	17.3	11.1	31.6	11.5

Sources: EUROSTAT and national statistical publications.

Notes: A: Year 1989; B: Year 1991

crease of almost 3% presents itself differently when looked at in terms of regions. The provinces in the south bear the main burden. While the increase in the unemployment rate in the north was only insignificant, unemployment rates in the south rose dramatically. Sicily is particularly affected with an unemployment rate that nearly doubled from 11.7% to 23.1%. On the other hand, the unemployment rate in the provinces of the north-east fell from 7% to 4.8%.

In addition, the harmonised unemployment rate of 1993 illustrated in the map shows that a simple north-south-divide is not sufficient to describe regional structures. The provinces in the north-east play a special role: with few exceptions, they have particularly low unemployment rates. The rise of this region finds expression in the term of the so-called "Third Italy" (Bagnasco 1977, Bianchini 1991, Loda 1989); however, distinct boundaries cannot be drawn. These particularly dynamic and economically strong provinces are characterised by enterprises with an extremely flexible production and market adjustment and are, in contrast to the old industrialised north-west, free of rather cumbersome industries that heavily depend on economic trends.

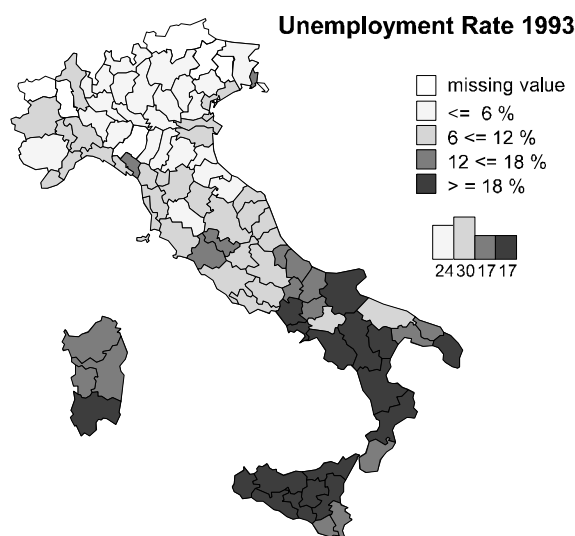
Territorial Structure

Italy is made up of 20 regions which themselves consist of 95 provinces. The regions were created in 1970 by law and have had administrations of their own since 1976. Via general elections a regional council is elected which then elects a regional government ("Giunta regionale").

Statistical Sources

The largest part of data relevant for social sciences are published by the Istituto Statistico Nazionale (ISTAT). Its programme of publications is very comprehensive and well structured. Particularly in publications referring to population censuses, detailed regional data are published. The "Bolletino Mensile di Statistica" is a monthly source for

Map: Unemployment in the Provinces of Italy, 1993 (Source: EUROSTAT)



the most significant statistical benchmark figures, as is the series "Indicatori Mensili", which contains a large number of time series. In the Statistical Yearbook as well as in 23 additional series complete annual data are published in printed form.

The latest population census was carried out in 1991 and has meanwhile been published completely. Regional data are available in 20 regional or 95 provincial publications and can be obtained in machine-readable form on diskette.

Further reading and references:

Bagnasco, A. (1977): *Tre Italie. La problematica territoriale dello sviluppo italiano*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Bianchini, F. (1991): *Tre Italie. Model or Myth?* In: *Ekistics*, 350/351:336-345.

Dunford, M.F. (1988): *Capital, the State and Regional Development*. London (=Studies in Society and Space, 1).

King, A.D. (1990): *Urbanism, Colonialism, and the World-Economy: Cultural and Spatial Foundations of the World-Economy*. London, New York.

Loda, M. (1989): *Das "Dritte Italien". Zu den Spezifika der peripheren Entwicklung in Italien*. In: *Geographische Zeitschrift*, 77(3):180-194.

Mignone, M.B.(1995): *Italy Today*. A

National Statistical Institute: Istituto Statistico Nazionale (ISTAT), Via Cesare Balbo, 16, 00184 Roma, ☎ +39-6-46733102 (3-4-5), Fax +39- 6-46735198
Publications are also available from: Casalini libri s.p.a., Via Benedetto da Maiano,3, 50014 Fiesole (Firenze), ☎ +39-55-599941, Fax +39-55-598895

Government Publications Sales Office: The offices are decentralised. Each Region has an office. See for a list in each recent publication of ISTAT.

Social Science Research Institutions: Istituto Universitario Europeo, Via dei Roccettini, 5-9, 50016 San Domenico di Fiesole (Firenze) ☎ (+39) 55 477931, Fax +39-55-4685298
Archivio Dati e Programmi per le Scienze Sociali (ADPSS), Via G. Cantoni, 4, 20144 Milano, ☎ (+39) 2 4986187, Fax +39-2-463291
Società Italiana di Economia, Demografia e Statistica, Casella Postale 12003, 00100 Roma
Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Via Romagnosi, 3, 20121 Milano ☎ +39-2-874175
L'Istituto Carlo Cattaneo, Via Stefano, 11, 40100 Bologna ☎ +39-51-239766

Social Science and Political Journals: *Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica* (three/year, ISSN 0048-8402), *Stato e Mercato* (three/year, ISSN 0392-9701), *Polis* (three/year, ISSN 1120-9488), *Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia* (quarterly, ISSN 0486-0349), *il Mulino* (six/year, ISSN 0027-3120)

Country in Transition. New York (= Stud. in Modern European History, 16).

Pohl, J. (1995): Italien dreigeteilt? Wirtschaftliche, politische und soziokulturelle Disparitäten südlich der Alpen. In: Geographische Rundschau, 47(3):150-155.

Putnam, R.D. (1992): Making Democracy Work. Civic Tradition in Modern Italy. Princeton: University Press

Vivanti, C. (1980): Zerrissenheit und Gegensätze. In: ROMANO, R. (Hrsg.): Die Gleichzeitigkeit des Ungleichzeitigen. Fünf Studien zur Geschichte Italiens. Frankfurt/Main, 139-225.

British parliamentarians attitudes to European Integration

In 1994 a UK Economic and Social Research Council survey of British Conservative parliamentarians attitudes to European Integration was carried out at the University of Sheffield, England. The complete datasets are available from the UK ESRC Data Archive. A presentation of some 200 cross-tabulations from the survey has now been mounted on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/N-Q/pol/EUROTORY.HTML>

More information: Steve Ludlam, Department of Politics, Elmfield, 132 Northumberland Road, Sheffield S10 2TY, Fax +44-114-2739769, Email: s.ludlam@sheffield.ac.uk

Comparative European social research: Selected new articles

Berlage, M.: **Telecommunications Development in Central and Eastern Europe.** In: *International Political Science Review* 16 (1995), 283-304.

Bicanic, I.: **The Economic Causes of New State Formation During Transition.** In: *East European Politics and Societies* 9 (1995), 2-21.

Blanpain, B. (Ed.): **Strikes and lock-outs in Industrialized Market Economies.** = *Bulletin of Comparative Labour Relations* 29 (1995).

Clasen, J. & A. Gould: **Stability and change in welfare states: Germany and Sweden in the 1990s.** In: *Policy and Politics* 23 (1995), 1989-202.

Masuy-Stroobant, G. & C. Gourbin: **Infant Health and Mortality Indicators. Their Accuracy for Monitoring the Socio-Economic Development in the Europe of 1994.** In: *European Journal of Population* 11 (1995), 13-62.

Mertig, A.G. & R.E. Dunlap: **Public Approval of Environmental Protection and Other New Social Movement Goals in Western Europe and the US.** In: *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 7 (1995), 145-156.

Mingione, E.: **Labour market segmentation and informal work in southern Europe.** In: *European Urban and Regional Studies* 2 (1995), 121-144.

Perrons, D.: **Economic strategies, welfare regimes and gender inequality in employment in the European Union.**

In: *European Urban and Regional Studies* 2 (1995), 99-120.

Sartori, G.: **Bien comparer, mal comparer.** In: *Revue Internationale de Politique Comparée* 1 (1994), 19-36.

Yair, G.: **'Unite Unite Europe' The political and cultural structures of Europe as reflected in the Eurovision Song Contest.** In: *Social Networks* 17 (1995), 147-161.

New EUROSTAT Newsletter

The statistical office for the European Communities (Eurostat) has recently launched the first edition of the *Research for Official Statistics* Newsletter. Aimed at statistical researchers in the public and private sector and users of statistical information, the Newsletter will report on the activities of the European Commission, particularly highlighting the DOSES (Development of Statistical Expert Systems) programme. *Research for Official Statistics* will be published twice a year in June and December.

For more information, please contact: Research for Official Statistics, Eurostat, Room C5-98, Jean Monnet Building, L-2920 Luxembourg. Phone +352 - 4301 34756, Fax +352 - 4301 34771

International Social Sciences Institute (Edinburgh)

Non-Stipendiary Visiting Associateships „BOUNDARIES AND IDENTITIES“, September 1995 - December 1996.

The International Social Sciences Institute invites applications from established scholars wishing to become Visiting Associates, and especially from academics interested in contributing to discussion of its 1995-1996 theme, *Boundaries and Identities*.

Visiting Associates are provided with office accommodation and access to research facilities (incl. access to internet/www). It is envisaged that they will normally be based in Edinburgh for a minimum period of about three months, but proposals for shorter visits will be considered. The position is non-stipendiary.

The Institute has been established by the Faculty of Social Sciences as part of its new School for Higher Studies. The mandate of the International Social Sciences Institute is to encourage exchange of ideas between visiting scholars and members of staff in the University of Edinburgh. The Director is Professor Malcolm Anderson, who is currently engaged in a research project on the External and Internal Frontiers of the European Union, a major project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council in the United Kingdom.

Applications, by letter accompanied by curriculum vitae and outline research proposal, should be sent to: Dr. Ged Martin, Deputy Director (Visiting Programme), International Social Sciences Institute, Chisholm House, 1 Surgeon Square, High School Yards, Edinburgh EH1 1LZ, Scotland

esrc newsletter

The „European Consortium for Sociological Research“ has started to publish a newsletter. The following text is taken from the editorial:

„The goal of the ECSR is to contribute to the development of the discipline by facilitating the exchange of ideas, data and people. On the European level, cooperation has been growing rapidly during the last years. Several large-scale comparative projects have been completed. European data sets and data bases have grown in importance. Cooperation is also enhanced by the substantive increase in networks and research programs, on the European level as well as within the larger regions of Europe.

The development of cooperation requires information on potential research partners, programs, and funding opportunities. It is the main goal of the ECSR Newsletter to facilitate the flow of information necessary for this process.

The *ECSR Newsletter* will of course publish any news of interest from the Consortium itself. However, in order to strengthen contact between member institutions, we hope to present essential information from

the members themselves, regarding project plans, research staff, future applications, and other relevant material. The editors welcome all sorts of news from member institutions and contact persons.

Furthermore, the Newsletter will attempt to bring advertisements on seminars, and calls for proposals from other research agencies than the Consortium, such as COST or the European Science Foundation."

ecsr newsletter is available free of charge. Editors: F. Engelstad & J. Rogstad, Munthesgt. 31, 0260, Oslo, Norway. Fax +47-22-431385, fen@isaf.no

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.

Rieger, E.: **Politik supranationaler Integration. Die Europäische Gemeinschaft in institutionentheoretischer Perspektive.** (AB I, No. 9) DM 5,-

Henning, C., & P. Uusikylä: **The Impact of Communication Networks on Political Bargaining among Public and Private Organizations.** (AB II, No. 10) DM 5,-

König, T.: **From Intergovernmentalism to Party Politics? An Institutional Power Analysis of European Multi-Chamber Legislation from 1958 to 1995.**(AB II, No.11) DM 5,-

Kohler-Koch, B.: **Regions as Political Actors in the Process of European Integration - A Research Design.** (AB III, No. 9) DM 5,-

Kohler-Koch, B.: **The Strength of Weakness. The Transformation of Governance in the EU.** (AB III, No.10) DM 5,-

Jachtenfuchs, M. & B.Kohler-Koch: **The Transformation of Governance in the European Union.** (AB III, No. 11) DM 5,-

Jachtenfuchs, M. & B.Kohler-Koch: **Regieren im dynamischen Mehrebenensystem.** (AB III, No. 12) DM 5,-

CD-ROM: 25 years British „Social Trends“

Social Trends has been published annually by the Central Statistical

Office since 1970. It draws together statistics from a wide range of government departments to paint a broad picture of society today, and the ways in which it is changing.

Social Trends on CD-ROM provides a complete archive of the first 25 years of publication of *Social Trends*. It runs under Microsoft Windows version 3.1 or later. For ordering contact the CSO Sales Desk on Phone +44-171-2706081.

EUROPA WWW-Server

The European Commission has opened a World-Wide-Web server named *Europa* on the world Internet computer network. Its aim is to provide people with clear, comprehensive and up-to-date information on the objectives, institutions and policies of the European Union. The Europa server is a pilot project developed by DG X at the Commission, in cooperation with the calculation centre, the spokesman service and the information services of the various Directorates General. At its launch, the Europa server contains: general information on the EU (institutions, historical chronology, questions and answers of general interest); information on the Commission (tasks, composition, speeches by the president, organisation, guide to document-access); service documents by the spokesperson (Rapid service); an "ABC" on EU policies, giving access to broad public information emanating from the Directorate Generals; information on access to the Commission's data bases (I'm Europe, ISPO, Cordis, Eurobases, Eurostat, Euroop, etc.).

Europa can be accessed at <http://www.cec.lu>.

Forthcoming Events:

Employment Week '95. A Working Future for Europe (Third European Conference and Exhibition), 7-9 Nov 1995, Palais de Congres, Brussels, Belgium. Info: Touchstone Exhibitions and Conferences Ltd, 4 Red Lion Street, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey TW9

1RW, United Kingdom. Phone +44-181-332 0044, Fax +44-181-3320874

Euroconference: Social Policy in an Environment of Insecurity, 8-11 Nov 1995, Lisbon, Portugal. Info: Fax +43-1-587397310, a.sellner@iccr.co.at

NTTS'95: International Conference on New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics, 19-22 November 1995, Bonn, Germany. Info: Christine Harms, Fax +49-2241-142472, harms@gmd.de, <http://orgwis.gmd.de/explora/ntts.html>

Social Exclusion and Social Integration in Europe: Theoretical and Policy Perspectives on Poverty and Inequality (from the series „European Society or European Societies“), 26-31 March 1996, Blarney, Ireland. Info: ECSR, Secretary (Fredrik Engelstad), Fax +47-22-431385, fen@isaf.no.

A Changing Europe in a Changing World: Urban and Regional Issues (Call for Papers), 11-14 April 1996, Exeter, UK. Info: Kathy Wood, Univ. of Durham, Fax +44-191-3742456

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

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

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

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)

**2nd International Conference on
Survey and Statistical Computing**,
11-13 Sep 1996, London. Info: Randy
Banks, Association for Survey Com-
puting, ESRC Research Centre on Mi-
cro-Social Change, University of Essex,
Colchester CO4 3SQ. Phone +44-1206-
873067, Fax +44-1206-873151,
randy@essex.ac.uk

**20th Conference on Regional and
Urban Statistics (SCORUS)**, 14-17
Oct 1996, Madrid, Spain. Info: Mr.
Antonio Martinez López, Instituto Na-
cional de Estadística, Paseo de la Cas-
tellana 183, E-28046 Madrid. Fax +34-
1-5837918

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 meta-information 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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Administration and Staff: Peter Flora (Scientific Director), Franz Kraus (Managing Director), Michael Quick, Franz Rothenbacher. Secretariat: Marianne Schneider

EURODATA Newsletter

This newsletter is intended to contribute to facilitate data-based comparative research on European societies and politics. 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.

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