

ACC SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
Twenty-fourth session
Vienna 18-22 June 1990
Item 12(B) of the provisional agenda

SA/1990/19
7 May 1990

GENERAL PRICE STATISTICS AND ICP
European Comparison Programme (ECP)

Report prepared by the ECE secretariat

1. In Phase VI of the European Comparison Programme (ECP), five east European countries participate (in Phase V their number was three). The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia will have bilateral comparisons with Austria, and this set of countries will form Group II. The USSR will join the comparison through a bilateral exercise conducted either with the Federal Republic of Germany or with Austria. Group II results will be linked to the European Community results through Austria.

2. Since the last meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, work on ECP in Group II is progressing in accordance with the work programme of ECP '90 (adopted at the Consultation which was held in Vienna (Austria) from 6-9 March 1989; CES/630). Consultations with interested national and international statistical offices on the results of the comparison (whenever required) and a meeting will be held in 1991/1992. The following stages of work have to be carried out in 1990/1991:

- preparation of the classification of expenditures and of the target list of representative items;
- preparation of questionnaires and all necessary instruments;
- collection of prices for the reference year 1990; calculation of annual national average prices;
- submission of prices;
- calculation of PPPs for basic headings, including matching procedure;
- submission of expenditure data for the 1990 GDP in the breakdown agreed, and of indicators of non-market services;
- bilateral calculation of real values for basic headings and aggregated categories.

It is necessary to stress that the close co-operation and direct contacts between Austria and the other countries in Group II during the series of operations are of great importance for the success of the whole undertaking. Especially important are additional consultations with countries which join the comparison for the first time.

3. Finally, it should be mentioned that the other east European countries are keenly interested in participating in the European Comparison Programme.