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SERVICES STATISTICS



1990/92 work programme for Statistics on Services

Report prepared by EUROSTAT-Luxembourg

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# 1990/92 work programme for Statistics on Services

## Progress report

### OBJECTIVES

Eurostat has drawn up a multiannual programme (1989/92) for developing statistics on services with the following objectives :

- to implement a European reference framework for statistics on services in order to :
  - \* set out the most appropriate concepts and methods for managing and monitoring Community policies, especially the completion of the internal market;
  - \* support and promote harmonization for present and future developments in the Member States;
- to establish the legal, organizational and technical components of a European statistical information system for services.

### STRATEGY

The strategy for implementing the multiannual programme involves:

- the development of the methodology for statistics on services (1989/90) and a Council recommendation for its legal adoption (1991);
- the collection of statistics available from official and non-official sources (1989/90), the consolidation and extension of these statistics on a pilot basis using the methodology (1990/91);
- the regular collection of harmonized statistics based on the methodology and legally supported by Council Directives (1992/93);
- a Council framework Decision to support the multiannual programme and the implementing strategy (1990).

The implementing strategy has been presented to and approved by Mr Christophersen.

### 1989 RESULTS

The 1989 results have already been presented to the Coordinating Group for Statistics on Services at its January 1990 meeting, and consist of:

- the definition of the Commission's requirements worked out in close cooperation with the Directorates-General which use statistics on services;
- the completion of the preliminary version of the Manual of Methodology for statistics on services, which deals with both the overall framework and the sectoral aspects;
- the completion of the initial development phase of the MERCURE statistical information system on services: inventory of available statistics, collection of data on priority variables, setting up of the production base.

### **1990/91 OBJECTIVES**

The Coordinating Group noted the results, confirmed that it agreed to the multiannual programme and implementing strategy, and set the following objectives for 1990/91:

#### **Methodology**

- to supplement the manual of methodology with contributions from the delegations and the users (June 1990);
- to forward the new version of the manual to the Voorburg Group Members and the statistical authorities in the member countries of EFTA, OECD and the United Nations (July 1990);
- to prepare a proposal for the next meeting of the Coordinating Group (November 1990);

#### **MERCURE Information System**

- to use standardized questionnaires to supplement available statistics in order to arrive at an overall view of the current situation based on both the new and existing data (1990);
- to consolidate the production base by providing estimates for the missing data on the priority variables and carrying out pilot surveys in the sectors and countries where there is a particular data shortfall (1990/91);
- to enable users to consult the data by arranging a publications programme (1990) and setting up a consultation database (1990).

#### **Legislation**

- preparation of the Council framework Decision (1990);
- preparation of the Council recommendation on the methodology (1991).