USE OF MICRO-COMPUTERS IN STATISTICAL WORK

Report prepared by the
Statistical Office of the European Communities
- EUROSTAT -
USE OF MICRO COMPUTERS IN STATISTICAL WORK

LIST OF SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE

Eurostat will be equipped at the end of 1988 with 113 Personal Computers, this represents roughly one Personal Computer for every three persons working at Eurostat.

These Personal Computers (PCs) are practically all Olivetti M24s and recently the upgraded model M240. The operating system used is MS-DOS which is the de facto standard today for PCs and which also means that a vast amount of software is available for us to use. These PCs are connected to our mainframe computers via an X.25 network.

The following is a non exhaustive list of the software used:

SYMPHONY.— This software from Lotus Corporation forms the backbone of our PC utilization. The package is an integrated spreadsheet, word processing, database, communications and graphics package.

The basic use consists in downloading data from our reference databases such as COMEXT and CRONOS and to manipulate this data using the spreadsheet and graphics functions to produce publications.

Given the great variety of sources of data and publications, spreadsheets are produced on an ad hoc basis and no standard templates exist.

MS-WORD.— This software package currently under evaluation seems to be the most likely candidate to use for word processing needs for both secretaries and statisticians.

APL STSC.— Widely used by statisticians for its data manipulation and analysis capabilities, much more powerful than those of SYMPHONY although not as user friendly.
VENTURA PUBLISHER - This desktop publishing software is now been used on a limited basis to produce high quality publications.

CROSSTALK AND KERMIT. - are both communications softwares that allow the PCs to communicate with EUROSTAT computers.

DBASE III AND OPEN ACCESS II are used for those applications requiring a database management system.

SIGNIFICANT APPLICATIONS OF MICRO COMPUTERS.

Data Entry System (DES).- A great amount of data arrives in the form of paper or telex today and therefore needs to be entered via a terminal into the corresponding computer application. Since not everyone had access to a specialized data entry terminal a system has been developed on a PC that allows definition of data entry formats and screens and sends the data to our databases. The system was developed using DBASEIII and PASCAL.

CRONSYM.- A highly integrated link between CRONOS, one of our main reference databases and SYMPHONY.

PC-SIMPLE.- A generalized approach integrating our reference databases with the most popular spreadsheet formats. Specifically links will be provided between CRONOS and COMEXT with SYMPHONY and OPEN ACCESS II.

STATEL.- Currently under development will link Member States PCs with Eurostat via the national packet networks for the purposes of data transmission. Tests have already been successfully carried with several countries.