

## News from statistical offices

### **Austria**

#### *Atlas of Mortality in Austria by Causes of Death*

The Austrian Central Statistical Office has published an analysis of regional mortality differences in Austria in 1988/94, known as the *Todesursachenatlas* (causes-of-death atlas). Starting from the mortality situation and trends at the national level, the analysis concentrates on existing regional divergences in the standardised death rate by sex and their changes or stability over time. The regional differentiation is according to provinces, NUTS-3 regions, administrative districts and socio-economic community types. Besides the overall mortality rate, a hierarchical selection of 24 causes of death is included. The periods analysed are 1969/73, 1978/84 and 1988/94.

The assessment of the mortality situation undertaken by this atlas is intended to shed light on problem areas with a high death risk as well as on general structures relating to the geographic distribution of mortality. The spatial pattern of mortality in Austria is demonstrated by maps of administrative districts based on statistical analysis of mortality.

The atlas also contains references to possible risk factors, a chapter on international comparison and a detailed de-

scription of method and results. It has been drafted completely in German and English and is also available on CD-ROM. This electronic source of information contains the entire publication together with additional analyses.

### **Denmark**

#### *Workshop on the Implementation of ESA95*

Statistics Denmark in co-operation with Eurostat has organised a three-day workshop on the implementation of ESA95 in Copenhagen on June 7th - 9th 1999. This workshop was the third of its kind following the ones held in London in February 1996 organised by ONS and in Athens in December 1997 organised by NSSG.

Being held shortly after the first delivery of data to Eurostat according to ESA95, the seminar provided the first opportunity for national accountants from a large number of countries to compare their results and exchange experience from implementing the new definitions and classifications. The theme of the workshop was how to achieve international comparability of national accounts not only in theory but also in practice.

As far as the figures at current prices are concerned, international comparability is the focus of both statistical benchmarking exercises aimed at

showing how countries are managing compared with others and of the GNP Directive, when GNP is used as the basis for Member States' contributions. Recently, comparability of real growth rates has likewise become crucial in connection with the so-called Stability and Growth Pact, which stipulates the rules for fiscal policy under the European Monetary Union. The workshop dealt with both these aspects of international comparability.

For further information, please contact Mr Tue Mathiasen, Statistics Denmark, Tel: +45 3917 3067; Fax +45 3917 3999; E-mail: [tmm@dst.dk](mailto:tmm@dst.dk)

#### *Seminar on Agriculture and Environment Statistics*

Statistics Denmark hosted in Copenhagen on 30th June – 2nd July 1999 a seminar entitled: "How can Agricultural Statistics meet Environmental Information Needs". The seminar was jointly organised in co-operation with Eurostat, the European Environmental Agency and Statistics Denmark.

The objective of the seminar was to present the ongoing work of the three institutions concerning the seminar's topic, which is in the borderline between agriculture and environment. Furthermore, sessions and discussions on specific items such as Water use and water quality, Pesticides, Farm management, Rural viability and others were organised.

The proceedings of the seminar will be published in the four languages English, French, German and Danish.

For further information, please contact Mr. Bo Simonsen, Tel +45 3917 3863; Fax +45 3917 3037; E-mail: [bsi@dst.dk](mailto:bsi@dst.dk)

## **Estonia**

### *Population and Housing Census*

The census day of the next Population and Housing in Estonia Census has been changed. The new date is 31 March 2000.

At the end of 1995 the Government fixed the date 11 January 2000 as census day, however the organisers could not foresee all the conditions that influence conducting the census. The experiences gained during the pilot survey conducted in March 1998 as well as the opinions and suggestions expressed by the population census committee and the local governments served as a basis for changing the time of the census. A need appeared to leave for the new local government officials who would be elected in October 1999 a longer preparation and training period.

The Government has also approved the census questionnaire, census regulation and census forms. The basic documents for the census prescribed by the Population and Housing Census Act, which was passed last year, have now been determined, and the training of the census staff has begun. The approved census questionnaire includes 43 questions, of which 31 are about the person and 12 are about the dwelling and the household.

### *Time Use Survey*

Estonia for the first time participates in the International Time Use Survey co-ordinated by Eurostat. In connection with the beginning of the one-year lasting fieldwork in April 1999, Estonian public and the media have been very interested in the survey. The aim and the methodology of the survey have

been widely reflected by journalists in newspapers, radio and TV. The results of the survey are planned to be published at the end of 2001.

*Publications on Estonia and the Baltic States*

The Statistical Office of Estonia has recently published two pocket-sized reference books on Estonia and the Baltic States.

The first book, "Estonia in Figures 1999", provides essential statistics on economic and social conditions and activities in Estonia in 1998 (economic indicators for 1997). Comparisons with previous years (mainly with 1997, 1998) are drawn. The book includes statistics on population, health and social care, education and culture, wages and salaries, consumption, consumer prices and indices, national accounts, finance, public sector expenditure, agriculture, housing, trade, transport, etc.

The second book, "Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania in figures 1999", provides statistics on various domains for the three countries for 1997 and 1998, but also some indicators for the last five years (1994–1998). The book includes major geographical data and main statistical indicators on population, education and culture, justice, health and social care, labour market, consumption and prices, national accounts, finance, agriculture, environment and natural resources, energy, industry, transport and communications, housing, tourism and accommodation, domestic and foreign trade. The publication has been compiled especially for foreigners in co-operation with the national statistical institutions of three Baltic States.

Both publications can be ordered from the Statistical Office of Estonia.

**Latvia**

*New President of CSB*

In August 1998 the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia appointed as President of the CSB Mrs. Aija Zigure, who had been Vice President till that time. Mrs. Zigure replaced Mr. Arvils Sautins who had been elected to the Board of Governors of the Bank of Latvia.

Mrs. Zigure holds a degree in Economics from the University of Latvia with speciality in statistics. She started to work in the CSB in 1975 first as economist in the Regional Statistics Section, then Deputy head of the Summary Statistics Section, Head of the Trade Statistics Section and Director of the Price Statistics Department. During the last ten years Mrs. Zigure, among other activities, has taken an active part in the development of price statistics, in the introduction of various new methodologies and in the structural changes of the CSB.

*New publication*

The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia has issued a new publication "Latvia and European Union Countries", with the aim of showing the socio-economic situation in Latvia in comparison with the EU Member States.

The data collection comprises comparable information about the socio-economic situation and the recent trends (from 1995-1997) in Latvia and in the EU Member States. To give readers insight into the situation in Latvia and in the EU Member States more than half a century ago, the publication also includes a selection of statistical indicators on the years 1920-1937.

## Norway

### *Evaluation of uncertainties in greenhouse gas emission data*

Statistics Norway systematically reviews the uncertainties of each component of the national greenhouse gas inventory, concerning emission factors, activity data and direct measured emissions. The main weaknesses of the inventory are methane from landfills, nitrous oxide from agricultural soils and perfluorinated carbons from aluminium production. The uncertainties in the level and trend of these gases are causing particular concern for the trend determination. The uncertainty in trend cannot be easily quantified, but will be far lower than the uncertainty in level. With the current uncertainties in greenhouse gas estimates, Norway is not able to accurately estimate (within  $\pm 1\%$ ) the trend from 1990 to 2010.

The evaluation is a result of cooperation between Statistics Norway and the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority. Kristin Rypdal, Division for Environmental Statistics at Statistics Norway has written the report. Telephone: +47 22 86 49 49. E-mail: [Kristin.Rypdal@ssb.no](mailto:Kristin.Rypdal@ssb.no)

## Romania

### *Commemoration*

Romania is among the first countries where a national official statistical institution has been founded. In fact, the National Commission for Statistics commemorated, in April 1999, the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Romanian official statistics.

Briefly, the history disclosed: "... in April 1859, the central statistical body of Vallachia has been founded and three months later that of Moldova. These two moments represent summits of the process to develop and prepare the creation of the Romanian state centralised statistics in 1862".

### *Censuses*

The Romanian population and housing census is under intensive preparation. According to a decision of the Romanian government, the census day will be placed in 2001.

The Romanian general census in agriculture is to be carried out in 2002.

## Turkey

### *New President of SIS*

In March 1998 Prof. Omer L. Gebizlioglu was appointed President of the State Institute of Statistics (SIS) of Turkey.

Prof. Gebizlioglu, who was previously Vice President of SIS, undertook higher education in Turkey and the USA, obtaining a PhD in Statistics and Science of Systems.

His extensive academic career included positions in various universities in Turkey and two years in Australia. He is currently Professor and Head of the Statistics Department in the Faculty of Science at Ankara University.

Among his academic and scientific titles, Prof. Gebizlioglu is President of the Turkish Statistical Association and Vice President of the Balkan Statistical Association.

*Censuses*

The State Institute of Statistics of Turkey will conduct the next population census in the year 2000, while the ag-

ricultural census and the census of manufacturing industries and business establishments will take place respectively in 2001 and 2003.