

## News from statistical offices

### Cyprus

#### *New Director of the DSR*

Mr. Pambis Philippides has been appointed to the post of Director of the Department of Statistics and Research (DSR) as from 1st December 1998.

Mr. Philippides is 53 years old and has worked with DSR since 1971. He studied Mathematics and Statistics in the UK and was the coordinator for the statistical harmonisation plan and for the contacts with Eurostat.

#### *Revision of Statistical Law*

Within the context of the process for full membership in the European Union, the Department has initiated a complete revision of the Statistical Law of the country. The new law is based on the European Union requirements. The main provisions in the new Statistics Law pertain to all principles for collecting, compiling and disseminating data, the setting up of a Statistical Advisory Council, the access to administrative data, the preparation of annual and five-yearly programmes, the co-ordination with other offices, the rules for statistical confidentiality etc.

Additional information on the activities of the DSR can be obtained by consulting the web site (<http://www.pio.gov.cy/dsr>) or by e-mail ([cydsr@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:cydsr@cytanet.com.cy)).

### Czech Republic

#### *New President of the CSO*

The President of the Czech Republic has appointed Mrs. Marie Bohata as President of the Czech Statistical Office since 6th October 1999.

Mrs. Bohata graduated from the University of Economics, Prague, in econometrics. In 1971–1983 she worked as a researcher at the Institute of Engineering Industry, in 1984–1992 she was senior research fellow at the Central Research Institute of National Economy, after 1989 she was appointed Head of Department and Deputy Director of the Institute. At present she is Chairperson of Transparency International in the Czech Republic.

### Lithuania

#### *New law on statistics*

The new law on Statistics was passed on 23 December 1999 (enforced on 31 December 1999) by the Lithuanian Parliament – the Seimas. The draft was harmonised with EU legal norms pertinent to management of official statistics, data protection and confidentiality principles.

The law distinguishes between official statistics, handled by the state and local administration in accordance with the Work Programme on official Statistics and non-official statistics – this helps to identify compulsory and voluntary submission of statistical data.

Rights of producers and respondents have been expanded, e.g. the respondents have the right to free access to the legal basis of statistical surveys, objectives of data collection, data protection measures taken and the right to check their data, maintained in information systems and registers.

Data use, protection and confidentiality have been defined more clearly. The law no longer provides any exceptions for legal institutions to obtain confidential data about the persons charged.

Liabilities of producers in case of illegal management of statistical data, disclosure of confidential information as well as those of providers

failing to perform an obligation of statistical data provision have been foreseen.

The Law is an important step in integrating Lithuania's statistics into the statistical system of the EU, in improving relations between producers, respondents and users of statistics and in strengthening confidence in statistics.

## Malta

### *New premises of the CSO*

The Central Office of Statistics of Malta is now settled in new premises. The new address is: Central Office of Statistics, Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta.

## ISI

### *Jan Tinbergen awards*

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) has announced that competition for its prestigious Jan Tinbergen awards will be restricted in the year 2001 to women. Any young woman statistician (born 1969 or later), who is a national of a developing country, is invited to submit an original, unpublished paper on any topic in statistics by the deadline of January 1, 2001. Authors of the three winning papers will receive cash prizes and will be invited to present their papers at the next ISI session (in Seoul in 2001), with all expenses paid. The committee would appreciate any assistance in publicising this event in order to encourage maximum participation in the competition.

Full details and conditions can be obtained by writing to the ISI permanent office. The address is: International Statistical Institute, Permanent

Office, P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands. Tel.: + 31 70 3375737; Fax: + 31 70 3860025; E-mail: isi@cbs.nl.

## UN/ECE

### *New Director of Statistical Division*

Mr. Paolo Garonna, of Italy, has been appointed Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Statistical Division. He graduated from the University of Rome and holds a Masters degree in Economics from the University of Denver (USA) and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge.

Before joining the UN/ECE, Mr. Garonna was Director General of the National Statistical Institute of Italy. In June 1993, Mr. Garonna was elected Vice-Chairman and in 1998 Chairman of the Conference of European Statisticians.

Mr. Garonna has also worked with OECD as Deputy Director of Manpower Social Affairs and Education and held a Chair of Applied Economics at the Faculty of Statistics of the University of Padua. Author of many books and articles, Mr. Garonna has been economic advisor to Ministers and Prime Ministers in Italy and elsewhere.

Mr. Garonna was born on 30 August 1948. He is married and has three children.

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