

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 327 final

Brussels, 28 August 1981

FIFTH STATISTICAL PROGRAMME
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
1982-1984

- GENERAL LINES -

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

and

FOREWORD

1. On a number of occasions the Commission, Council and Parliament have expressed their interest in the drawing up, by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, of work programmes covering statistical activities in the years ahead.
2. To meet these demands in a manner which is calculated to enable the Council to examine and approve such programmes, the Commission has adopted a procedure whereby a programme covering the statistical activities of the Community in the years ahead is prepared at regular intervals and transmitted to Council.
3. In instituting this procedure, the Commission had the following considerations in mind:
 - 3.1. At a time when demands for statistics are increasing rapidly, co-ordination is essential. Otherwise there will be needless waste and confusion caused by a proliferation of requests for figures.
 - 3.2. Requests for statistics come from many directions each reflecting a different need. But unless they are co-ordinated the result is an accumulation of overlapping and potentially conflicting demands.
 - 3.3. Many requests may be aimed at a limited number of suppliers of information, who may increasingly resent and oppose any duplication and inconsistency.
4. The programme and the associated procedures for consultation and discussion provide the means for co-ordination.

5. The principal features of this procedure are:

5.1. The bringing together of the major statistical and closely related activities of concern to the Community into one programme, the central core being the SOEC's own programme.

5.2. The possibilities of improved co-ordination that such a comprehensive programme presents.

5.3. Consultation with the interested parties, particularly the principal users of the information, including the European Parliament.

5.4. The opportunity for the Council to review periodically the adequacy of the Community statistical programme, its priorities and its relevance to policy needs.

6. The present programme is the fifth in a series begun in 1973. This indicative programme covering the years 1982-1984 contains no budgetary proposals. The Commission transmits the programme to Council with an indication that it is ready to have consultations with the Council. The programme is also being sent, for information, to the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee.

Fifth Statistical Programme
of the European Communities 1982-1984

The general lines of a proposed programme of work for Community statistics in the years 1982-1984 are described in the following pages. In addition, there are a number of annexes. These are mainly devoted to a detailed description of the individual projects which together make up the programme as a whole.

These annexes are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Annex 1 - Directorate A | - General Economic Statistics |
| Annex 2 - Directorate B | - Demographic and Social Statistics |
| Annex 3 - Directorate C (part.) | - Industry, Transport and
Services Statistics |
| Annex 4 - Directorate D (part.) | - Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries Statistics |
| Annex 5 - Directorate D (part.) | - Energy Statistics |
| Annex 6 - Directorate E | - External trade, ACP and Non-member
Countries Statistics |
| Annex 7 - General | - Secretariat
Liaison Bureau
Informatics
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SUMMARY

Two major innovations characterise the Fifth Statistical Programme of the European Communities covering the years 1982-1984. These are:

- The development of new databanks which will as a group provide a basic and flexible instrument for the formulation, monitoring and administration of Community policies in most fields of high priority;
- A new role for EUROSTAT in the dissemination of on-line information from existing and new databanks to the Community Institutions and to the Community at large.

The principal aim of the Fourth Programme (1979-1981), that of providing timely short-term economic and social statistics, has been largely achieved, and the bulk of the required raw statistical material is already in the hands of EUROSTAT and the national statistical services. The main problems to be solved in order to carry out the new programme are:

- to seek with Member States how the flow of essential statistical information can be maintained and improved, partly through the use of new telecommunications facilities, and in so doing lightening the the burden on scarce statistical resources in Member States, and partly by improved cross sector harmonisation so that maximum use can be made of all the available figures.
- to achieve the necessary re-deployment and re-inforcement of computing and other resources in order to achieve these aims at a minimum cost.

FIFTH STATISTICAL PROGRAMME, 1982 - 1984

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The present programme is the fifth in a series begun in 1973. The series has developed as follows:
- 1974 First programme circulated as EUROSTAT working document.
 - 1976 Second programme 1977-1979 (1). Approved by Commission (2) and in following year by Council (3)
 - 1977 Third programme 1978-1980 circulated as EUROSTAT working document.
 - 1978 Fourth programme 1979-1981 (4) approved by Commission (5) and Council in 1978 (6).

It is no longer considered necessary to produce a full new programme each year for the Commission and the Council though an annual updating is discussed each year with the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes.

- 1.2. The proposals for the Fifth Programme can therefore be considered in the light of the experience of the operations of the earlier programmes. Thus before considering the proposals for future work, the following paragraphs are devoted to the review of the expectations, the achievements, the setbacks and other unforeseen developments met in carrying out the fourth programme.

2. REVIEW OF THE YEARS 1979-1981

2.1. Priorities

Section 6 of the general lines of the programme for 1979-1981 gave first priority to timely social and economic statistics. This priority was first in a list which included the following additional items:

- contingency programme for fisheries statistics,
- raw materials,
- gaps in national accounts,
- social indicators,
- service statistics,
- sectoral analysis,
- enlargement,
- world nomenclature.

- (1) COM(76) 376
- (2) COM(76) PV 378
- (3) R/1704/77 (ECO 191 and T/626/77 (AGRI))
- (4) COM(78) 124
- (5) PV 299/78
- (6) R/1585/78 (ECO 133) (FIN 422) and 750/78

2.2. Council views on the programme

In its statement of its view on the Fourth Programme (R/1262/78 (Eco 111)) Council approved its general lines and the priorities concerning timely social and economic statistics. Among other points the Council laid stress on the importance of improved international statistical coordination, the need for regular review of the programme for individual sectors and welcomed the emphasis given to the harmonisation of national statistics rather than to the additional introduction of Community statistics on the basis of Community legislation. It considered that in national and Community statistical services there should be adequate resources to meet the priorities of this programme.

2.3. Assessment of the work done - Timeliness

There has been good progress in providing timely social and economic statistics. Normal release dates for some of the more important Community statistics are now as follows:

<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Release date</u> (after reference period t)	
	Unemployment	t + 3/4	month
	Production	t + 1 1/2	months
	Prices	t + 1	month
<u>Annually</u>			
	National Accounts ESA	t + 15	months
	Agricultural Accounts First estimate	t - 1	month
	External Trade (NIMEXE)	t + 5	months

2.4. Within the Commission services improvements have come from increased exploitation of the CRONOS data base and from increased dissemination through terminals, magnetic tape, microfiches and statistical telegrams. However, timely Community statistics depend essentially on the efforts of the national services and the close cooperation between those services and EUROSTAT. The Community's statistical programme is their programme and they participate in its achievements and in its shortcomings. The record of achievement in the years 1979-1981 is a good one.

2.5. Other objectives

EUROSTAT produced the first Community balance sheets for raw materials in 1979 and made some progress with the gathering of data for sectoral analysis. A second publication in a new series devoted to social indicators was well reviewed by

the European press. The contingency programme for fishery statistics was drawn up and good foundations were laid for the long-term work on world nomenclature problems. The publication of national accounts in real terms using purchasing power parities was put on to a regular annual basis, an innovation in international statistics. However, relatively little advances were made towards filling the gaps in national accounts statistics, in balance of payments statistics, or in the collection of services statistics.

2.6. Community surveys

There was a concentration of work on Community surveys grouped around the statistical benchmark year 1980. For the two-yearly labour force sample survey, first results from the 1979 survey were available rapidly but the other major two-yearly survey, the collection of structural data from farms, continued to encounter difficulties in the processing of the results. Among the less frequent surveys, a major bench-mark survey on prices was carried out in the autumn of 1980, and the first partial results of a large survey of the structure of earnings in 1978/1979 were available by the end of 1980.

During the period of the programme the first routine processing and dissemination of the annual harmonised industrial structure surveys began with the production of the results for 1975 and 1976.

2.7. However, there was a major and unforeseen setback in the execution of the first harmonised Community Census of Population. Plans had been carefully drawn up over many years, and set down in a 1973 directive, for a harmonised and synchronised Census of Population to be carried out in the spring of 1981. For varying reasons a few Member States found themselves obliged to seek derogations from the directive.

2.8. Unforeseen developments

Many of the Commission's day-to day needs for statistics for policy purposes had been foreseen in the Fourth Programme - for example, for agriculture, for energy, for the GATT negotiations, for the textile surveillance system etc. In addition, new unforeseen demands were made and met including work on the VAT contributions to the Community budget and statistics required to monitor the crisis in iron and steel.

2.9. Dissemination

Perhaps the most significant general advance in improving Community statistics in this period was in dissemination. In addition to a restructured and streamlined programme of publications, with concentration on monthly bulletins providing rapid information, there was a big increase in output via magnetic tape and microfiches. In addition about 150 terminals were available early in 1981 to make the contents of the CRONOS data bank readily available to the Commission's services in Brussels and Luxembourg.

2.10 CRONOS-EURONET

A milestone in the development of EUROSTAT and Community statistics was reached at the beginning of 1981, when the CRONOS data bank was linked to the EURONET telecommunications network via commercial services. These services will put some 600,000 statistical times series - about three quarters the total contents of the CRONOS data bank - at the disposal of users.

2.11 Collaboration with international organisations

Finally, there was a marked increase in the collaboration between EUROSTAT and other international statistical organisations. Regular meetings were held to review and encourage the efforts to eliminate duplication of demands on the national statistical services and to promote important international statistical projects, particularly those concerning international price comparisons (the ICP project) and nomenclature problems at the world level.

2.12 Conclusions

The balance sheet for the Fourth Programme is largely positive. Many of the principal objectives have been met. Council's wishes have been met, not only in regard to collaboration with the international organisations but also to the extent that EUROSTAT has sought to maximise the use of existing national statistics and to encourage the other services of the Commission to do likewise. It has also begun, at the regular meetings of the Conference of Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes, a systematic review and updating of the programme for major sectors.

3. OUTLOOK FOR THE YEARS 1982-1984, DEMAND AND GENERAL PRIORITIES

3.1. Increase in demand

The volume of statistical data to be handled and available for disseminating for Community purposes will continue to grow. This growth flows inevitably from developments such as:

- the enlargement of the Community,
- widening relationships with third countries or groups of countries,
- increasing concern about the social, economic and monetary situation.

As in recent years the increase in volume is expected to come, not so much from collection of new data from the nine Member States, but from the bringing together of existing information flows and sources in a co-ordinated manner. However, the enlargement, realised and impending, of the Community involves a very significant addition to the volume of collection.

3.2. Harmonisation and co-ordination - central priorities

As indicated in earlier programmes, the principal role of EUROSTAT remains that of integrator at the centre of the Community's statistical system. It is of prime importance to maintain the co-ordinating link between EUROSTAT and the national statistical services as the unique channel for meeting the Community's statistical requirements. These requirements call for harmonisation of the national statistics - to ensure comparability between Member States and to make it possible to calculate meaningful totals for the Community. However, harmonisation for Community purposes lays heavy burdens on the Member States. Serious study is therefore essential, in the light of the uses to be made, of the choices to be made between the collection of national statistics, their conversion to a Community system, and the creation of new statistics; the long-term objective remaining the convergence of the national statistical systems.

3.3. Increased demands and greater harmonisation - a balance of priorities

Efforts made in the previous programme to provide timelier and improved statistics, together with the current proposals for their dissemination via data bank networks, require that the degree of harmonisation, from the point of view of the comparability of the data, must be made clear. The extent of the harmonisation will depend on the nature of the figures. For some uses, lack of comparability must not be an excuse for withholding the data. It is evident that statistics to be used to compare levels or structures must be more harmonised than series designed to compare trends, particularly short-term trends, where harmonisation can be limited to those presentational and methodological aspects which could affect these trends. In addition, the statistical system must be organised in such a way that the important detailed harmonised structural information which takes much time to compile can be kept up-to-date by the use of simpler but rapid statistical indicators.

The national statistical services are obliged to find ways and means of providing an adequate statistical service within national boundaries while containing or reducing costs wherever possible. EUROSTAT faces a similar problem at the Community level and with the national services must seek to meet growing demands at minimum costs even if this means a lower degree of harmonisation and comparability than some users would wish to have.

3.4. Data banks and networks - a new priority

There will be increasing pressure to take advantage of new data processing possibilities in order to handle and make readily available the increased volume of data available. Community policy needs are frequently changing and users seek quicker access to data available from a variety of sources. The new programme consequently contains important projects for the expansion of existing data banks and for the development of a number of new statistical data banks.

3.5. Quality - a priority task

As data banks and networks put more figures at the disposal of users the need to ensure adequate levels of quality for each kind of user will become more apparent. Quality implies not only reliability but also timeliness and adequate documentation to guide the user. Where national statistics are inserted unchanged into the framework of Community statistics, their identity and source must be apparent. Where there are unavoidable differences between national and harmonised or standardised Community statistics there must be "transparency" so that both the original supplier and the users are not confused by these differences. Consequently projects in the programme will contain work plans devoted to inventories and catalogues, and handbooks devoted to methodology, sources and definitions.

3.6. Other overall priorities - enlargement

The experience of enlargement in 1973 showed that it took considerable time to incorporate the new Member Countries' statistics into the Community's system. Greece joined the Community in January 1981, negotiations with Portugal and Spain are proceeding. EUROSTAT has already established close working relationships with the statistical services of all three countries, but much work remains to be done for EUROSTAT to assimilate the considerable quantity of additional information already available and for these countries to adapt their national systems to the Community system to give the appropriate new statistical framework for ten and eventually twelve countries. To play their proper role in the Community's statistical work and not put too heavy a strain on the national systems, the national statistical services of new Member States must have adequate resources.

3.7. An inter-institutional role for EUROSTAT

Finally, whereas EUROSTAT has hitherto devoted nearly all its resources to the primary role of providing a statistical service to the Commission, higher priority is now being given and will be given in future to provide an improved service to other users of Community statistics. This change in emphasis will automatically result from the development of the CRONOS-EURONET links but facilities such as these also interest public authorities in the Member States and the Community institutions, particularly the European Parliament. EUROSTAT has already inaugurated an experimental service to the French Senate and the Commission has given favourable replies in response to demands for the establishment of links with the European Assembly and the European Investment Bank. With these and other developments EUROSTAT expects to play an increasing inter-institutional role in the coming years.

4. PRIORITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL SECTORS

4.1. General Economic Statistics (Directorate A)

In the field of statistics for economic policy, highest priority will be given to tasks related to the ESA (European system of integrated economic accounts). In particular an improvement in the speed in which the information is collected, handled and disseminated will be sought, and special attention will be paid to comparisons in real terms. Special efforts will be made to fill the more important gaps in the national accounts. Input-output tables are indispensable for analyses of the flows of goods and services in the European economy and the work programme in connection with the 1980 tables will merit special attention. As regards Regional Statistics further progress is envisaged towards Regional Statistics capable of meeting the multiple needs of the Commission and in particular the periodical report foreseen in the Regulation setting up the European Regional Development Fund. This work consists of taking advantage of the provision already made in various acts of Council for the collection of regional statistics in a number of fields.

The growing use of statistics in relations between the Community and third countries gives added importance to the work on Balance of Payments Statistics. As regards Short Term Financial Statistics, the accent will be on extending the range of figures available. Monetary and Financing Statistics are important in the context of the European Monetary System and efforts in the coming years will be concentrated on methods for harmonising the basic statistics and on the dissemination (sometimes limited because of their confidential nature) of the data already harmonised.

Finally, a number of substantial projects should be mentioned which are of growing importance, namely work of the accounts of

4.2. Social and demographic statistics - Directorate B

In social and demographic statistics the scope is particularly wide and heterogeneous. It is possible only to programme for a minimum service of Community statistics in many subject areas and to limit a more comprehensive service to areas of important general interest, such as population, employment, wages and prices and to subjects of particular policy concern, such as unemployment. Considerable attention will continue to be devoted to the establishment of the links between the various subject areas by the use of standard nomenclatures and breakdowns and by synchronisation.

The growth in use of social statistics has led to insistent demands for the achievement of increases in scope and detail already agreed (as for example in the extension of short term earnings statistics to services and the supply of absolute prices of consumer goods and of up-to-date instruments for calculating purchasing power parities). Indeed the general pressures on social statistics are similar to those on EUROSTAT as a whole, namely for more timely, more frequent, and more reliable information. It is therefore planned in consultation with the working groups to continue the general improvement in timeliness - which has been well received - in particular by overcoming delays in response (for example, in the labour force survey, and in earnings statistics). The serious delay between the arrival of the first results of the labour force survey and its completion for all countries is a major handicap which must be overcome. The working groups will also be requested to consider improvements in the quality of the data and the making good of gaps which hamper the presentation of breakdown at Community level.

Turning to subject matter areas, the level of unemployment is one of the greatest problems for the Community. Statistics of employment and unemployment are therefore a top priority. A workshop is planned for late autumn 1981 to help to determine users' priorities for the further development of labour market information. In the field of social protection, the completion of the ESSPROS (European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics) methodology is a priority which has been recognised by Member States. In safety, health and welfare, a programme to make better use of national data on industrial accidents will be established.

4.3. Industry, transport and services - Directorate C.

Nowhere more than in the field of industrial policy is there the need for greater flexibility in meeting demands for information arising from changes and uncertainties in the economic situation; for example in the steel and textile industries. The problems of the management of data, its dissemination and accessibility are paramount. In this context a special effort must be made to put the following data banks on to an operational footing:

- industrial conjuncture
- industrial production
- industrial structure
- analysis of industrial redeployment
- particular industries (steel, transport)

To feed these data banks and to meet, through other channels, the growing demands for industrial statistics, other imperative actions are necessary. As regards the application of the directives on short term industrial statistics, work must be concentrated on filling the gaps in the most important conjunctural indicators. Other mandatory statistics which are needed promptly are those relating to the annual industrial structure survey and to transport statistics as set out in three directives.

Additionally, during the period of this programme priority will be given to establishing regular series of industrial producer price indices. It is also hoped to extend the series of harmonised industrial production series beyond their present scope.

4.4. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries - Directorate D

The setting of priorities for agricultural statistics in the year ahead stems from the programme of work for the decade of the nineteen eighties which has been put together, in consultation with Member States and the Commission services, during the past two years.

While maintaining and where possible improving the flow of existing statistics on structures, prices, incomes and production, highest priority will be given to a number of specific projects. These include essential improvements in information about the agricultural labour force, closer links between EUROSTAT statistics and those of the Farm Accounts Data network and the further development of a system of fisheries statistics.

Enlargement of the Community imposes a particularly heavy burden in respect of agricultural statistics, notably as regards the need to ensure that the necessary statistical infrastructure is set up in good time in new Member States. For existing Member States this problem is virtually solved except in the case of

Italy, where the extension of the observation system through a strengthened statistical infrastructure merits high priority in the programme for the immediate future.

Finally, in addition to the data bank on fisheries which is already in preparation, priority will be given to the possibility of developing a data bank on agricultural structure statistics designed to speed up the handling of data from current and future surveys and to provide easier access to the rich store of information already accumulated from past surveys.

4.5. Energy statistics - Directorate D

The principal objective remains unchanged - to maintain and improve the flow of timely and reliable information about the salient features of the energy situation (production, consumption, imports and stocks) with particular attention to oil statistics and to the overall energy balance.

During the period of the programme, priority tasks also include the extension of the new energy input-output tables for 1980 to cover the whole of the Community and the setting-up of a regular system of energy prices covering production and imports as well as consumption.

To ensure that reliable statistics are available to the Community for monitoring the oil situation and in times of emergency, EUROSTAT will pursue its fruitful collaboration with the IEA and Member States with particular emphasis on eliminating major inconsistencies in external trade, stock movements and petrochemicals.

4.6. External trade, ACP and third country statistics - Directorate E

Within the general framework of the implementation and adaptation of the Council regulations concerning harmonised Community trade statistics the following priority actions are envisaged in this programme:

Methodology and Nomenclature

- redefinition of the special trade system, trade in bonded goods, value definitions, and the measurement of intra-EEC trade;
- participation in the setting up of the Harmonised System and examination of the relationship with other trade nomenclatures.

Dissemination and analysis of EEC trade data

- enlargement of the NIMEXE trade data system to include Greece and other new member countries,
- statistical surveillance systems for purposes such as: SGP (System of Generalised Preferences), GATT (General

- agreements on Tariffs and Trade) and MFN (Multilateral Fibre Negotiations),
- extension of use of general programme to monthly processing of NIMEXE data,
- statistical analyses for the preparation of international trade negotiations and for monitoring the external trade of the Community,
- development of a NIMEXE data bank,
- development of price indices using NIMEXE data.

Other activities of high priority include the consolidation and expansion of existing data banks relating to ACP and third countries, and the co-ordination of technical statistical co-operation between EEC Member States and ACP countries.

5. TECHNICAL PRIORITIES AND GENERAL TASKS

5.1. Technical priorities

Priorities for individual sectors for EUROSTAT as set out in the preceding paragraphs flow necessarily from the Commission's developing policy needs. However, whatever the policy needs of the day, the Community's statistical work will also have its own internal priorities which must be met in order to develop and maintain the statistical infrastructure on which the servicing of policy needs depends. Among such technical considerations which will play an important role during the period of the Fifth Programme are:

- the linking together of statistics (e.g. prices, trade, production and employment) from various sources to produce more closely integrated data for economic and social analysis of Community problems or of Community relations with third parties.
- the rebasings of some of the principal social and economic indicators using 1980 as the base year.
- the increased use of estimating procedures which will be necessary in an enlarged Community in order to produce timely statistics for the Community as a whole.

5.2. Dissemination

EUROSTAT will use data banks to promote the rapid and flexible transmission of data. In addition to on-line facilities, there is a considerable volume of data already disseminated from these banks by way of magnetic tape and microfiches. This output will increase in future. Conventional publications no longer provide more than a very small part of the total information disseminated and EUROSTAT policy for these publications is to ensure that, more and more, salient figures will be automatically produced in a systematic and regular manner from the computerised data banks.

5.3. Informatics and telematics

EUROSTAT is responsible for the development and maintenance of statistical soft-ware systems for general use throughout the Commission. At the present time, maintenance of existing systems (CRONOS (time series data bank), SABINE (nomenclatures and headings data base) and OSIRIS (table generating language)) is a heavy but essential task, but priority must also be given to improvements in these systems, to the creation of directories, to the extension and integration of soft-ware tools to cover the management of large data files and distributed sub-systems. The continued rapid growth of the use of informatics by EUROSTAT will call for maximum co-ordination of efforts on maintenance and development of these general systems, of the work of planning, execution and technical assistance within EUROSTAT, of the operations of the Computer Centre and of the National Statistical Services, and of the requirements of the various users. Through its use of EURONET, EUROSTAT will be in a position to pioneer the possibilities of direct on-line exchange of information between Member States and the Community Institutions as part of an inter-institutional telematics network.

5.4. Liaison and co-ordination

EUROSTAT devotes more and more attention to assisting users to find what they need from data which is readily available, and thus easing the burden on suppliers of the primary information. This priority task is undertaken in part as one of the responsibilities of the 90 or so regular EUROSTAT working groups meetings which take place each year in order to plan in detail work on individual projects, and also in part by the EUROSTAT Liaison Bureau and Data shop in Brussels. High priority will also be given to continued efforts to reduce the duplications of demands for international statistical purposes.

6. LONGER TERM PERSPECTIVES

6.1. Statistical networks

The use of on-line communication networks will rapidly open up possibilities for speedier collection of statistics as well as their speedier dissemination. The possibility of national statistical services themselves updating Community and international statistical data bases will bring new opportunities for timelier statistical information but will also raise problems of organisation and relationships between the bodies concerned which could

fundamentally affect the way in which they operate. In addition the questions already being raised as to the boundaries beyond which a statistical service should not go in marketing its statistics will become of increasing importance in the not too distant future.

6.2. Changes in publications and data collection methods

With statistics reaching an ever wider public through telecommunications systems, the role of conventional publications will continue to change radically in character. Much of the efforts currently devoted to the problems of collection will be devoted to ensuring an adequate information service to users wishing to make the best use of the volume of statistics available.

The statistician will also spend more time on the matching of nomenclatures and other problems associated with the bringing together of statistics from a multiplicity of sources.

6.3. New social and economic phenomena are already posing serious problems for the statistician - measurement of the "black economy", of inflation and its consequences, of the migratory labour force, of production activities which are increasingly complex and dispersed beyond national boundaries, of the role of women in the economy and in society, of the growth of the service industries, of the social situation of cultural workers. To these problems must be added the increasing reluctance on the part of the general public and of industry to respond to official statistical enquiries and in particular to well-publicised large-scale censuses and surveys. This may lead government statisticians to turn more and more to small-scale inquiries, to the greater use of statistical registers and of administrative records, and to the linking together of information from these disparate sources.

6.4. More feedback

At the same time the use of communication networks will enable better relationships with users and suppliers to be established. To gauge the relevance of their data to the needs of society statisticians will be able to use the automatic systems which register the intensity of use of each statistic.

6.5. Greater selectivity

The power of modern computers to process and to make available large volumes of data will further require a conscious effort on the part of statisticians to bring out what is significant by:

- i) increased preparation of ad hoc analyses,
- ii) systematic working over of the data received treated and stored to find the most meaningful way of summarising and presenting it.

7. DEMAND AND RESOURCES

7.1. Demand

Efforts continue to be made to restrict demands to essentials - and in this process the number of projects in the programme has been cut from over 250 in the Fourth Programme to 180 in the Fifth. Nevertheless, Community requirements continue to grow. The current volume of output (dissemination in all forms) and the expected increase are difficult to quantify. However, as the inputs into the computer are the national statistics which require little further processing, the volume of data handled by the computing system may be used to illustrate the growth in demand.

The following table shows that despite the braking effect of resource restrictions the computing of Community statistics has grown rapidly. Requirements will continue to increase rapidly particularly in view of the need for new data banks.

EUROSTAT Computing

	Calculated requirements (in hours of ICL 2980 OCP equivalent)	Use	Shortfall	Percentage shortfall %
1975	600	450	150	25
1980	2700	2160	540	20
1981	3350	2200*	1150*	33
1985	8200			

* Estimate in February 1981 when EUROSTAT operations accounted for some 70 % of the work of the Commission's main ICL computer.

7.2. Resources

During the period of the Fourth Programme, EUROSTAFF staff managed high levels of output in spite of serious computing bottlenecks. Much of the increased productivity came from savings achieved by the use of computers to receive, edit, store, handle and disseminate data. Further savings are still to be obtained in this way, but development and maintenance of the data banks and data networks will require additional resources of computing capacity, and of informatics and statistical staff.

7.3. There has been a recent increase in the capacity of the Commission's main frame computing facilities, but staff resources in the Computing Centre have not kept pace with requirements. EUROSTAT's own staff in recent years have consequently been obliged to devote much time to overcome computing bottlenecks and, with little re-inforcement, have been unable to play their full role in a growing number of vital statistical projects. The Second Statistical Programme COM(76) 376 envisaged a re-inforcement plan which raised the level of EUROSTAT staff to 375 by 1979. The current level in 1981 is nearly 25 % below this objective. Other services of the Commission have thus been obliged to request and to use more staff for statistical work. Use of resources has accordingly been less than optimal, with a large number of statistical projects carried out in an independent and thus possibly inefficient manner.

7.4. Statistical Co-ordination

Considerable economies of scale can be achieved by the central management of the collection, compilation and exploitation of statistics. Present indications are that resources for statistical work will continue to be as scarce as they are at the present time, both in the Commission and in the Member States. Such resources as are available to the Commission for the collection of basic statistical material should be concentrated as far as possible in EUROSTAT and not dissipated throughout the Community administrations unless there is a specifically agreed decision to the contrary. National and Community statistical services can reduce costs of collection, handling and analysis through the optimum use of computers and communications networks and achieve high productivity by skilled exploitation of available statistics.

This optimum use of computers and communicating networks could also help decentralized analysis of statistics.

EUROSTAT has the experience to ensure efficient co-ordination of the Community's statistical efforts - but does not yet have the resources to see that this co-ordination is effective and to see that the Community's priorities for statistical work are respected.

7.5. Additional resources

In the light of this situation EUROSTAT's main needs for additional resources in the years ahead may be summarised as follows:

- need for additional staff to manage the new data banks and networks which will alone provide a sufficiently flexible system to meet changing Community policy needs in new situations.
- additional capacity in machines and personnel in the Computer Centre to meet these demands.
- need for additional staff to co-ordinate the statistical work of the Community to achieve the best use of scarce resources.

8. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF SURVEYS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME

Key:	X	-	Community survey
	s	-	Community survey, small scale or of limited coverage
	H	-	National survey, harmonized and synchronised
	(H)	-	National survey, harmonized but not synchronized
	?	-	Uncertainty as to timing.

	<u>Reference year of the survey</u>				
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<u>Social</u>					
Labour force	X		X		X
Labour force - supplementary questions			X?		X?
Labour costs in industry)		X			X
Labour costs in commerce)		X			X
Earnings in agriculture	s	s	s	s	s
Population census	H				
Accidents (iron and steel)	s	s	s	s	s
Accidents (iron and steel): origin and circumstances	s		s?	s?	s?
<u>Agriculture</u>					
Structure	X		X		X
Cattle	X	X	X	X	X
Pigs	X	X	X	X	X
Dairy	X	X	X	X	X
Hatchery	X	X	X	X	X
Sheep	X	X	X	X	X
Fruit trees		X			
Wine: Basic survey 1979/80	X				
Annual surveys	X	X	X	X	
<u>Industry</u>					
ECSC surveys	X	X	X	X	X
Industry - general	X	X	X	X	X
Industry - investment	X	X	X	X	X
Quinquennial survey of small firms				X	
Decennial census	X				
<u>Transport</u>					
Road-haulage statistics	X	X	X	X	X
Inland waterway statistics	X	X	X	X	X
Rail statistics		X	X	X	X
<u>Prices</u>					
Capital goods prices	s	s	s	s	X?
Energy prices	s	s	s	s	s
Retail prices	s	s	s	s	X?