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FIFTH STATISTICAL PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES 1982-1984

Annex 7

GENERAL - SECRETARIAT
LIAISON BUREAU
INFORMATICS
DISSEMINATION (part of Directorate C)

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General - Secretariat, Liaison Bureau, Informatics, Dissemination

Priorities and objectives

In addition to the usual internal personnel and administration tasks, there are a number of "horizontal" tasks which are of relevance in the context of the Statistical Programme and which are carried out by staff attached directly to the Director-General and by Division 4 of Directorate C.

Among the highlights of the activities in these areas in the years covered by the programme will be:

Secretariat and Liaison Bureau

- efforts by the Liaison Bureau, and the Data Shop in particular, to assist Commission Services to bring together the statistical information which they need, much of which can currently only be accessed on unconnected systems.
- intensification, through regular reviews, of the efforts to reduce the duplication of demands by international statistical organisations and to improve the links between Community statistics and those of other organisations.

Informatics

- the maintenance and improvements of software (CRONOS, OSIRIS, SABINE, etc) currently operational, with an emphasis on the creation of Directories.
- extension of existing software to cover the management of large data files and the integration of software tools, including distributed subsystems.
- Looking further ahead the integration of new output technologies (graphics, photocomposition, word processing).
- The general implications of the possibilities offered by new telecommunication networks for the relationships between EUROSTAT, the national and international statistical organisations and suppliers and users of statistical data.
- a more systematic forecasting and planning of computing requirements based on the Statistical Programme and integrated into the central informatics planning of the Commission.
- increasing attention to rationalising and harmonising EUROSTAT's use of different computing facilities in the light of circumstances in Member States and the Commission's central computer policy.

Dissemination - (Directorate) C

- EUROSTAT will make increasing use of its 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 bases 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 base.
- already, considerable use is made of the CRONOS database in the production of tables for publications direct from the computer, but there are still some areas where these techniques have still to be applied.
- much effort will be devoted in unit C4 and S1 to work on catalogues designed to provide an inventory and guide to statistical publications on the one hand and the complete list of available statistics on the other. These projects will be designed in such a way that the maximum amount of information will be computerised and automatically updated.
- as regards general publications, a fourth "key" publication may be added to the existing trio
 - EUROSTAT, monthly
 - BASIC STATISTICS, yearly pocketbook
 - EUROSTAT REVIEW, yearly with 10 years coverage.The fourth will be a yearbook devoted principally to the main structural statistics for the latest year for which figures are available.
- close attention will also be given to possibilities of increased collaboration with national services designed to promote interest in national and Community statistics.

LIST OF PROJECTS

GENERAL - SECRETARIAT (SG), LIAISON BUREAU (SG), INFORMATICS (UNITS S1 AND S2) AND DISSEMINATION (C4)

<u>Title</u> 1985	1981	1982	1983	1984	
<u>Secretariat</u>					
SG001	General personnel and administration (Project description sheets only for SG004, SG005 - SG009)				
SG002	Statistical programme SG003 DGINS Conferences				
SG004	International organisations				
<u>Liaison Bureau</u>					
SG005	Liaison Bureau (Brussels) - General				
SG006	Parliamentary questions				
SG007	G	G	G	G	G
SG008	I	I	I	I	I
SG009	Data Shop - Brussels				
<u>Software design and development</u>					
S1001	CRONOS software				
S1002	OSIRIS/SABINE				
S1003	SIGISE				
S1004	TABAN				
<u>Data processing management</u>					
S2001	Statistical data processing management - General				
S2002	Co-ordination with central computing services				
S2003	User support				
S2004	CRONOS - operational management and user support				
S2005	Forecasts and planning of computing requirements				
S2006	Co-ordination with national statistical services				
<u>Publications and studies on nomenclatures</u>					
C4001	CRONOS: Content and policy management				
C4002	CRONOS: Documentation and catalogue				
C4003	CRONOS: on-line dissemination (EURONET)				
C4004	CRONOS: on-line dissemination (EURONET) - privileged users				
C4005	Publications: Administration				
C4006	Publications: Information, dissemination and promotion				
C4007	Publications: General statistical publications				
C4008	Nomenclatures				
C4009	Budget for surveys and studies				

I = Mainly internal work of SOEC, not laying a heavy burden on Member Countries
G = Work mainly in Working Groups.
X = Collection and/or processing of data in Member Countries.

GENERAL - SECRETARIAT

Adviser : George CLARKE

Assistant : Alain BIRON

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Secretariat of the Director General

TITLE: Co-operation with the International Statistical Organisations

PROJECT NUMBER: SG004

1. INTRODUCTION:

EUROSTAT and the National Statistical Services have for many years worked within the broad framework of statistical standards laid down by the United Nations Statistical Commission and other international statistical authorities.

While for many purposes the Community has been obliged to set up its own more rigorous statistical norms in order to meet the particular requirements of its policies, there has always been recognition of the need for Community standards to remain compatible with less homogeneous but world-wide standards.

The importance of trade and other negotiations and discussions between the Community and other countries and groupings of countries has grown tremendously during the last years. This has led to increased demands for comparable statistical material on trade and other activities and has re-inforced the need to make the statistics more comparable, particularly between the Community and other countries and groups of countries.

At the same time, the scarcity of the resources in statistical offices in the last few years has given new impetus to the efforts to eliminate duplication of work by the International Statistical Organisations, in particular in respect of the demands made on national statistical services.

2. SOURCE:

The most recent sources of demand for new initiatives in this field came from the Council in its observation of the Fourth Statistical Programme, and from the United Nations Statistical Commission.

3. AIM:

See 1 above.

4. DESCRIPTION:

EUROSTAT officials and those of the international statistical organisations attend, as far as is possible, each others working group meetings on statistical projects. In addition, in response to recent initiatives on the part of the United Nations, arrangements have been made for regular meetings of the secretariats of EUROSTAT, UNSO New York, UNECE Geneva (Statistics), and OECD to review progress.

5. WORKPLAN:

The work covers the whole field of EUROSTAT statistical activities but in addition to the general arrangements described in 4 above, the following projects are particularly noteworthy:

- the work of the UN-EEC working group on nomenclatures (see project C4008)
- the International Comparison of Prices project
- efforts to produce common questionnaires or reporting systems to eliminate duplication of demands (e.g. for National Accounts and Energy Statistics)
- efforts to align Community statistics on international standards (IMF manual, ILO definitions etc.)
- co-ordination of technical statistical assistance from the Community to developing countries.

6. FINANCING:

Credits are used, particularly in connection with the work on nomenclature, for the ICP project and for technical statistical assistances.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

As EUROSTAT should, wherever appropriate, speak on behalf of the Community in international statistical discussions, the work of reaching an agreed view imposes burdens on Member States as well as EUROSTAT. These are additional to the efforts which have to be made by EUROSTAT, in concertation with Member States at the international level.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No

9. DISSEMINATION:

No

OFFICE FOR LIAISON WITH COMMISSION DEPARTMENTS IN BRUSSELS

Jean-Claude LIAUSU

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Liaison Bureau
TITLE: Liaison Bureau - General
PROJECT NUMBER: SG005

1. INTRODUCTION:

As a result of the need to offset the disadvantages of the distance between the SOEC - located in Luxembourg - and the main users of statistical data, most of whom are located in Brussels, EUROSTAT set up a special unit responsible for general liaison and data supply activities.

2. SOURCE:

Commission decision, following a transitional period during which the need for a special unit became evident.

3. AIM:

To maintain direct working contacts with users located in Brussels.

4. DESCRIPTION:

- General liaison activities

These involve assisting the SOEC departments in all their relations with the other Commission departments: representing the SOEC at meetings, informing the SOEC about the requirements of other Directorates-General, informing the other Directorates-General about the services the SOEC can provide. One of the main aspects of this activity is the handling of Parliamentary questions (see project SG006).

- General co-production activities

The activity referred to under this heading corresponds to work which concerns both the SOEC departments in Luxembourg and the Directorates-General and which for practical reasons is at present carried out in Brussels by officials of the Liaison Bureau. It includes:

- Research and development: co-production with Directorate C and DG XII (see project SG007).
- Monitoring the VAT levy: co-production with Directorate A and DG IX (see project SG008).
- VISA data bank: co-production with Directorate C and DG III (see project C3006).
- Short-term dissemination of statistical information: (See project SG009).

- 5. WORKPLAN:)
- 6. FINANCING:) See relevant project
- 7. VOLUME OF WORK:) description sheets
- 8. WORKING GROUP:)
- 9. DISSEMINATION:)

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Liaison Bureau
TITLE: Parliamentary questions
PROJECT NUMBER: SGO06

1. INTRODUCTION:

One of the means of disseminating the statistical information available is EUROSTAT's contribution to the replies to the questions put to the Commission by the members of the European Parliament, whenever these replies require figures.

2. SOURCE:

Parliamentary questions, which are collected centrally by the Secretariat General, are distributed to the Directorate-General with a list of those which are required to contribute to the reply as the main department concerned or as an associate. A number of questions raised by the European Parliament are thus referred to EUROSTAT.

3. AIM:

The aim is to back up the Commission's replies with official figures. Sometimes explanations have also to be given to the European Parliament about EUROSTAT's general policy, its programme of publications, the conditions under which certain surveys are carried out, etc.

4. DESCRIPTION

The questions sent out by the Secretariat-General are taken over by the Brussels Liaison Bureau, which passes them on to the division(s) responsible for the fields in question, ensures that the deadlines for the replies are observed and coordinates the replies with the other Directorates-General (main department concerned or associate) with a view to the adoption of the final text to be sent back to the Secretariat-General.

5. WORKPLAN:

Continuous

6. FINANCING:

No

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Continuous

9. DISSEMINATION:

The replies are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Liaison Bureau
TITLE: Research and development
PROJECT NUMBER: SG007

1. INTRODUCTION:

The compilation of statistics on R&D is closely linked to the activities of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) set up by the Council in January 1974. EUROSTAT provides the secretariat of the CREST subcommittee on Statistics. This subcommittee draws up an annual report on public financing of R&D and deals with all relevant methodological questions. The CREST is currently discussing the possibility of extending the work to include indicators which require the inclusion of sectors other than the public one.

2. SOURCE:

Terms of reference of the CREST and specific requests from the Council: Directorate-General for Research, Science and Education.

3. AIM:

To build up the statistical documentation required for the purposes of research policy coordination as laid down by the Council.

4. DESCRIPTION:

- Collection and analysis of national budget data (public financing).
- Preparation of an extension of statistical coverage to non-public sectors, intended to lead in the long term to secondary accounts for research.
- Progressive inclusion of statistical inquiries on R&D which can be used to calculate indicators (personnel, transfers of technology, etc.).

5. WORKPLAN:

- Continuation of the regular drawing-up of annual reports on public financing.
- Revision of the NABS.
- Progressive extension of R&D statistics to non-public financing and research personnel.

6. FINANCING:

Credits for studies.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Considerable for the national services on account of the reclassifications, in accordance with the NABS, to be made for the preliminary and final budgets; even greater for the Commission departments setting-up new statistical series and drafting the report on the sectors other than the State. This work could not be undertaken without an increase in resources, which has been requested since 1978.

8. WORKING GROUP:

Yes CREST Sub-Committee.

9. DISSEMINATION:

a) CRONOS : Domain ZRD 1

b) Publications : Code No 911 - Annual report of the CREST subcommittee on Statistics.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Liaison Bureau

TITLE: Monitoring the VAT levy

PROJECT NUMBER: SG008

1. INTRODUCTION:

The introduction of the Commission's own-resources system based on VAT, as laid down in Council Regulations 2891 and 2892/77 of 19 December 1977, involves a series of decisions and checks.

2. SOURCE:

Article 7 (2) of Regulation 2892/77 refers explicitly to the use of national accounts data compiled in accordance with the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA).

3. AIM:

Use of the harmonised ESA statistics in decision and checks on the VAT levy.

4. DESCRIPTION:

These national accounts data are used in the calculation of the weighted average rate referred to in Article 7 of Regulation 2892/77. Monitoring of this rate requires detailed knowledge of national accounts and the availability of appropriate documentation. It became clear that, as a result of its experience, EUROSTAT was the department best able to carry out proper checks in this field by providing technical assistance.

5. WORKPLAN:

The SOEC takes part in internal meetings and in the meetings of the Advisory Committee on the Communities' Own Resources, the aim of which is to determine the implementing provisions for the above-mentioned regulations and the adjustments required to own resources when the Member States make use of the option provided for in the sixth Directive to continue to tax or to exempt temporarily certain transactions.

The SOEC also takes part with the Directorate-General for Budgets in the visits made to the Member States (preparatory visits and on-the-spot checks) and contributes to the written report on each country.

6. FINANCING:

No

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

This is a new field of activity, 1979 having been the first year in which the regulations were actually implemented and 1980 the year in which monitoring began. It is already apparent that the volume of work is considerable and will inevitably increase.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Liaison Bureau

TITLE: Data shop in Brussels

PROJECT NUMBER: SG009

1. INTRODUCTION:

EUROSTAT's Sdata shop in Brussels was set up to provide assistance in the rapid retrieval and classification of statistical data not only to officials of the Commission and the other Community institutions but also to outside bodies (universities, centres, embassies, the press, etc.).

2. SOURCE:

EUROSTAT initiative to offset the disadvantages of the distance between it and the other Commission departments.

3. AIM:

To supply statistical data, i.e. in practical terms to help users of statistics to solve their problems without necessarily having to travel, to guide their research and, if necessary, to help them in the methodological interpretation of the data they are looking for.

4. DESCRIPTION:

The statistical data can be found on various media:

- SOEC, national and international publications
- on microfiches
- stored in CRONOS.

A library covering all EUROSTAT publications, the main publications of the Member States, the Applicant States, the United States and Japan, and works from international organizations such as the UN, IMF, OECD, etc. has been set up and is run by the data shop. All the microfiches produced by EUROSTAT are available at the data shop.

The data contained in CRONOS are available to users via two terminals. The necessary assistance is provided by the data shop, not only as regards the retrieval, consultation and computation of the series, but also for the other file sub-set management operations which the domain manager in Brussels (DG II, DG VI) are required to carry out.

5. WORKPLAN:

CRONOS is so highly developed that it is becoming a working tool of increasing interest to the Directorates-General and the other Community institutions. For this reason the data shop has been asked to conduct wide-ranging information campaigns. Having CRONOS available on EURONET extends its interest to the many press and information offices in the Member States and a large number of outside bodies. From time to time the data shop organizes CRONOS courses and seminars for Commission departments, either directly or through the CIRCE.

To keep himself up-to-date with and in his turn provide information on Brussels' specific requirements, the official in charge of the data shop takes part in the periodic meetings of the CRONOS group responsible for managing the system. Despite all the equipment available the user's task is made difficult when he wants to process simultaneously the data which are found on different media. He must then fall back on manual or semi-manual processing.

It is for this reason that the data shop is going to be equipped (beginning of 1981) with a MITRA 115/APLIXI mini-computer capable of processing data using APL. A tape reader will make it easier to feed the machine.

Use of the MITRA 115 will be shared with other Directorates-General (DG I, DG XVII), but the data shop will be responsible for management and technical assistance.

6. FINANCING:

Credits will be required for data processing and possibly for studies.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Will increase as a result of the provision of the MITRA/APLIXI and the implications of the future availability of CRONOS on EURONET.

As greater specialization in data processing will be required, considerable efforts will have to be made to retrain officials wherever possible.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

DIVISION S1
Software design and development

Marcel MESNAGE

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S1

TITLE: CRONOS: Software development and Maintenance

PROJECT NUMBER: S1001

1. INTRODUCTION:

CRONOS is a data base system for the management of time series. The project was begun in the nineteen sixties. The system has been operational since 1974. It has grown rapidly and the data base at the beginning of 1981 included over 800,000 time series in 33 separate subject matter fields.

It has become an indispensable tool of the services of the Commission and the internal network of some 150 video terminals allows officials in Brussels and Luxembourg instant access to the latest figures with possibility of analysing them.

CRONOS is used by EUROSTAT for storing and managing data and is increasingly used for obtaining printed EUROSTAT publications in a rapid and economical manner.

A new phase in its development and exploitation began in 1981 with arrangements to make a substantial part of it available via host computers through the EURONET DIANE network and there are other planned connections with Community institutions and others.

Technical possibilities are to be explored for using the CRONOS system, in conjunction with networks, as a means of two-way transmission of statistical data between EUROSTAT and Member States and the system will also have a role to play in the investigation of possible international statistical telematic links which EUROSTAT will undertake in collaboration with the international statistical organisations.

Work on CRONOS involved most units in the Office with general tasks shared between a number of units. Operational management and user support are provided by unit S2 (see project S2003) and the Brussels data shop (SG009). Content and policy management, documentation of the contents and the development of on-line dissemination are the responsibility of unit C4 (C4001 -C4004).

However, essential maintenance, adaptation and development of the CRONOS software and other technical questions are the continuing responsibility of unit S1 which also gives advice on CRONOS to potential users in other organisations. Various administrations in Western Europe and South America have decided to use the CRONOS system.

2. SOURCE:
See 1.

3. AIM:
See 1

4. DESCRIPTION:

CRONOS is a home-made system including sophisticated programs and a large amount of instructions. Moreover, the security aspects of the data base are predominant, given the size of its content. The improvement of the system's efficiency at various levels is also a permanent necessity to face the steady increase of the data base size in a context of limited resources.

New developments are planned, of which a flag subsystem (for missing or estimated values) and the integration of interrogation capabilities for TTY terminals and page mode synchronous terminals (to support Euronet type connections).

The development of a directory subsystem is also planned in common with OSIRIS developments (see project S1002).

5. WORKPLAN:

1981 : flag subsystem, TTY-compatible interrogation, miscellaneous developments

1981-1982 : directory (see OSIRIS).

1982-1984 : integration of CRONOS into SIGISE (S1003)

6. FINANCING:

Credits for studies.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

A significant effort is needed for the permanent maintenance of the system.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No.

9. DISSEMINATION:

CRONOS is used as vehicle for data dissemination, and copies of the software itself have been delivered to public services or international organisations.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S1
TITLE: OSIRIS-SABINE
PROJECT NUMBER: S1002

1. INTRODUCTION:

OSIRIS is a software for table generation. SABINE is a data base system for classifications and related information, used by OSIRIS if needed. Both systems are operational and used increasingly at the SOEC and other services of the Commission (e.g. for administrative and financial statistics).

The aim until now has been to save programming time for the production of statistical tables.

2. SOURCE:

See 1.

3. AIM:

See 1.

4. DESCRIPTION:

OSIRIS is a home-made system (in co-operation with Grenoble university) and thus has to be maintained and adapted to changes in computer environment.

Given the potentialities of the system, developments have been planned to introduce file generation capabilities and a directory sub-system which will convert it to a data base system for large structural files. Further, the directory sub-system will cover both OSIRIS and CRONOS files. The result will be a semi-integrated data-base as an intermediate stage of the SIGISE project (see project S1003).

5. WORKPLAN:

1981 : file generator, directory
1982 : multiple input files, extended link of directory and data bases including CRONOS)
1983 : vertical operations, extended validation capabilities.

6. FINANCING:

Credits for studies.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Work in these areas constitutes long-term investment (as the experience with CRONOS has shown) involving the use over a number of years of personnel with unique skills.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No.

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S1
TITLE: SIGISE (ex-Aise)
PROJECT NUMBER: S1003

1. INTRODUCTION:

SIGISE is an integrated system for production and dissemination of statistics. Preparatory studies have been done in recent years on theoretical aspects of data modelling, and methodology of design. The general architecture has been described and work on complete specifications is started.

2. SOURCE:

See 1.

3. AIM:

The aim is to provide a direct man-machine interface for all aspects of the process of statistical production as well as a general statistical data base for final users.

4. DESCRIPTION:

The system will use a software to be specified and implemented. An important part of this software will be derived from the existing OSIRIS and CRONOS systems as an ultimate stage of their evolution. (In fact developments presently planned for OSIRIS and CRONOS have been strongly influenced by the studies done for SIGISE).

The main specific work to be done beyond OSIRIS and CRONOS developments concerns the infrastructure needed for monitoring users, data, and programs in a fully integrated and high level approach. This includes problems of consistency, confidentiality and reliability.

5. WORKPLAN:

1981 : achievement of specifications
1982-1984 : implementation.

6. FINANCING:

Credits for studies.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

See note 7 on S1002.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No.

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S1
TITLE: TABAN
PROJECT NUMBER: S1004

1. INTRODUCTION:

Internal studies have been made on the possible applications of generalised regression techniques to the analysis of statistical tables. Fields of application have been identified for: reduction of the size of publications, data validation, confidentiality problems, interpretation of data.

2. SOURCE:

See 1.

3. AIM:

One aim is to spare resources used for publications by better selection or condensation of the significant information. Another aim is an improvement in the quality of methods used for data validation, privacy protection and data interpretation.

4. DESCRIPTION:

A basic set of programs (using an APL system) have been established from available scientific literature. These should be extended and applied to specific fields of experimentation in order to assess these techniques.

5. WORKPLAN:

1980-1982 : experimental programs (e.g. see project B1012)
1983-1984 : specification and implementation of operational software according to results of experiments.

6. FINANCING:

Credits for studies.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

No.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No.

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

SPECIALISED SERVICE S2
Data-processing management

David HEATH

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S2

TITLE: Statistical Data Processing Management - General

PROJECT NUMBER: S2001

1. INTRODUCTION:

Computing has become an ever-increasing and indispensable means of carrying out the growing tasks entrusted to EUROSTAT. However EUROSTAT does not have its own computer organisation. It relies principally on the Commission's centrally managed computing services - computers, programmers and job preparation staff. This implies numerous interface problems particularly when inadequate central resources are under pressure to meet competing demands. New problems have emerged relating to the organisation of wide-spread decentralised access to central computers by staff who are not data processing professionals. The implementation of new technology is now changing the ways of working of EUROSTAT both internally and in its dealings with its outside clients.

These developments have created new organisational needs. This was recognised in the summer of 1978 by the creation of a separate unit of data processing management, formalised as a specialised service in the autumn of 1980.

2. SOURCE:

Commission decision

3. AIM:

To ensure the most effective use of computer possibilities.

4. DESCRIPTION:

The work of the service is described in detail in separate projects for each of the main areas of activity.

S2002 Coordination with central computing services

S2003 User support

S2004 CRONOS - operational management and user support

S2005 Forecasts and planning of computing requirements

S2006 Coordination with national statistical services.

5. WORKPLAN:

The majority of personnel resources are taken by current activity.

Areas where development is planned include

- role of working group SDP (Statistical data processing)

- forward planning and reporting

- screening actual and potential computer applications.

6. FINANCING:

Mainly involves use of DP credits (Chapter 21). Some use of study credits.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

At EUROSTAT limited to the number of staff available. In Member States any additional activity (e.g. role of SDP working group) should be offset by efficiency savings.

8. WORKING GROUP:

For project S2005.

9. DISSEMINATION:

Not normally.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S2

TITLE: Coordination with central computer services

PROJECT NUMBER: S2002

1. INTRODUCTION:

The computing resources available to EUROSTAT stem almost entirely from the Commission's central data-processing budget. In practice this involves predominantly use of the Commission's central computers (managed by the Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration) and the associated staff - computer operations including job preparation staff, analysts and programmers. Since EUROSTAT is the dominant user of the central computing services and cannot work without proper computing resources, the running of these central services both as regards day to day problems and in general terms is of capital importance to EUROSTAT.

2. SOURCE:

Commission decisions.

3. AIM:

To provide a link between the computing needs of EUROSTAT and his computing resources provided.

4. DESCRIPTION:

- 4.1. Since EUROSTAT is the main user of the Commission's central computer, its management contributes to the formulation of central computer policy. The service S2 provides a focal point for computer related problems so facilitating the formulation of a general EUROSTAT position.
- 4.2. Management of limited central resources (computer time, programming, outside services ...) via budgets, formal applications for resources and control of use made. Service S2 allows a unified EUROSTAT position.
- 4.3. The definition of user needs, carried out by functional analysts from S2, provides the basis on which computer projects are developed by the central analysts and programmers and run by the computer operations division. The "functional analyst" has a general and continuing responsibility for the computer project.
- 4.4. The daily computing work of EUROSTAT requires constant contacts between S2 and the central computing services
 - transmission and progress chasing of requests for computer work
 - current priorities
 - special difficulties
 - short term planning.

4.5. Service S2 provides a channel for the flow of information (including complaints) between the central computing services and EUROSTAT.

5. WORKPLAN:
Ongoing work.

6. FINANCING:
No.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

8. WORKING GROUP:
No.

9. DISSEMINATION:
No.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S2
TITLE: User support
PROJECT NUMBER: S2003

1. INTRODUCTION:

The use of computing by EUROSTAT staff requires them to be in contact with external organisations. These are generally unfamiliar to the statistician. A difficult terminology, new organisations and methods and new skills are involved. There is an increasing tendency for statistical staff to try to take advantage of the decentralised computing possibilities which have been made available in recent years. This allows some of the difficulties of central resource shortages and organisational rigidities to be overcome. However the need for assistance at a number of levels is manifest.

2. SOURCE:

Operational necessity.

3. AIM:

To help EUROSTAT staff make the most of available computing facilities.

4. DESCRIPTION:

4.1. The service S2 provides a reference point for general questions relating to computing at the Commission - organisation, responsibilities, procedures, perspectives ...

4.2. Advice is given on choice of approach for possible computer applications based on an analysis of the users needs in relation to current possibilities taking account of general tools and resource needs.

4.3. Advice is given on technical problems arising from decentralised computer use.

4.4. Small scale urgent programming is carried out to meet general or particular needs where the traditional centralised approach is unable to meet the need in the time scale required.

4.5. Certain independent mini computing facilities are managed by the service S2 including local graphic work and APL programming.

4.6. Organisation of training courses mainly using resources outside the unit.

4.7. "Fire brigade" actions apart from 4.4.

5. WORKPLAN:

The majority of work involves replying to particular needs. However a better assessment of recurring difficulties should allow more general solutions which solve problems on a more complete way.

- general tools
- training
- documentation
- improvements in central services

6. FINANCING:

Mainly internal staff.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

New staff working on computing and new difficulties bring new needs as existing ones are overcome. A constant workload.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No.

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S2
TITLE: CRONOS operational management and user support
PROJECT NUMBER: S2004

1. INTRODUCTION:

A general introduction to CRONOS is given in project description S1001. Computer work related to CRONOS accounts for a third of EUROSTAT's activity on the Commission ICL computer. CRONOS activity involves several units in EUROSTAT and elsewhere covering contents and diffusion policy, software development, daily operations, programming and computer operations. Service S2 plays a part in the overall management of CRONOS and is specifically responsible for operational management and user support.

2. SOURCE:

Operational requirements.

3. AIM:

To manage the day to day aspects of CRONOS computing and link as appropriate with other aspects of CRONOS work.

4. DESCRIPTION:

- 4.1. Daily management - contact with computer operations division, work carried out, queries follow up.
- 4.2. Break-downs and priorities
- 4.3. Work-load planning
- 4.4. Access procedures (code words, etc)
- 4.5. User documentation (excluding contents)
- 4.6. Training
- 4.7. User technical queries and difficulties
- 4.8. Relations with other units
 - software development/programmers concerning relevant development work and data base reorganisation
 - contents/publication unit concerning potential new CRONOS work and screening of existing work
 - computer operations re working methods, job preparation resources etc.

5. WORKPLAN

A progressive increase in direct control of CRONOS subject to resource limitations.

6. FINANCING:

No.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Increasing with the use of CRONOS.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No.

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S2

TITLE: Forecasts and planning of computing requirements

PROJECT NUMBER: S2005

1. INTRODUCTION:

Computing resources are vital to EUROSTAT. EUROSTAT is the dominant user of the Commission's central computing services. The quantity and quality of these services is thus of capital importance to EUROSTAT and EUROSTAT's needs are a major factor in assessing what is required from the central services. Recent years have seen considerable expansion in the central resources. Demand has grown even faster however so that there has been a continual shortage. This has been exacerbated by the recent change of type of computer, which caused a heavy drain on computer programming, management and budget resources. Realistic, regular and up-to-date forecasts of the implications on computing of EUROSTAT activity are thus required:

- i) for assessment of full computing needs
- ii) by confrontation with actual computing possibilities new work proposals can be assessed and EUROSTAT forward planning appropriately adapted
- iii) the continuing tendency to demand more work from EUROSTAT without staff increases requires the adoption of appropriate computer techniques whenever possible.
- iv) as an input into the central computer planning.

2. SOURCE:

Operational necessity.

3. AIM:

To assess EUROSTAT's computer needs and possibilities.

4. DESCRIPTION:

- 4.1. Current situation: establishing a full picture by use of central statistics linked to account numbers and grouping account numbers into operationally significant projects related to EUROSTAT statistical programme
- 4.2 Future needs : implications for computer resources
 - i) developments in statistics planned
 - ii) computerisation of existing projects
 - iii) improvements in existing computer procedures
- 4.3. Planning : confrontation of the results of 4.2. with likely future computer resources. Consequential action on computer resources/ EUROSTAT plans.

5. WORKPLAN:

Staff of service S2 working in conjunction with central computing planning staff and EUROSTAT officials are establishing the basic figures in 4.1. and 4.2. A study is under way on "the optimum use of statistical computing resources".

6. FINANCING:

Internal staff, computer budget and study budget.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Limited by staff in EUROSTAT and in the central computer services. Of increasing importance for the management of EUROSTAT.

8. WORKING GROUP:

No.

9. DISSEMINATION:

No.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: S2

TITLE: Coordination with national statistical services

PROJECT NUMBER: S2006

1. INTRODUCTION:

The raw material with which EUROSTAT works comes almost entirely from Member States. As both Member States and EUROSTAT increasingly use computers it is necessary to work closely with Member States to ensure a smooth flow of computerised information between Member States and EUROSTAT. With increasing standardisation it should also be possible to stop repeating work of an almost identical nature in different places.

2. SOURCE:

EUROSTAT/Member States perception of need.

3. AIM:

To coordinate computer activity involving both Member States and EUROSTAT.

4. DESCRIPTION:

4.1. Data delivery from Member States:

- harmonisation of formats
- schedule of probable delivery dates to help EUROSTAT planning
- data transmission via EURONET

4.2. Programme simplification: reduce general programming burden by portability of programmes

4.3. Standardised procedures for transmission of magnetic tapes

4.4. Assisting subject matter units in dealings with Member States

5. WORKPLAN:

The main formal vehicle is the SDP working group on statistical data processing. A number of bilateral contacts with Member States and some small pilot projects will also be required. A study may be arranged on data transmission and EURONET.

6. FINANCING:

Internal staff and study credits.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Not very great initially but will increase.

8. WORKING GROUP:

Yes.

9. DISSEMINATION:

No

DIVISION C4 - Publications and studies

Egide HENTGEN

- Nomenclature

Mattheus BURGER

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Publications and studies C4

TITLE: Data banks of chronological time series (CRONOS)

PROJECT NUMBERS: C4001, C4002, C4003, C4004.

1. INTRODUCTION:

(See S1001)

The management of CRONOS contents, documentation, policy as regards its development and in particular arrangements to use it to improve the dissemination of statistical data on-line to Commission and other users are now important tasks for which the Publications and Studies Division (C4) is responsible.

2. SOURCE:

EUROSTAT's initiative

3. AIM:

To use the CRONOS system to the maximum advantage for the capture, editing, storage, handling and analysis, and finally dissemination on line of a wide range of statistical time series.

4. DESCRIPTION:

C4001 : Content and policy management

- critical study of the content and of the quality of the data
- monitoring the updating of the contents
- participation in regular meetings of the internal CRONOS management committee to ensure coordination of software maintenance and development, operational management and user support, and contents and policy management.

C4002 : Documentation and catalogues

Apart from the production of manuals containing the classification plans used in CRONOS, it is also necessary to collect on a wide basis:

- the description of data available in the SOEC,
- the description of the storage medium content existing in the SOEC (CRONOS, publications, tapes, etc.).

This development would enable the SOEC to answer questions such as: Is certain data available? and where?

This work consists in collecting information, organising it on files managed by programmes allowing key-word retrieval.

C4003 : CRONOS on-line dissemination EURONET

Beginning in 1981 a large part of the CRONOS base has been made progressively available on line on the EURONET network. In collaboration with the services who will act as hosts on the EURONET network, EUROSTAT needs to ensure a continuous service of data transmission, documentation, promotion and information.

C4004 : CRONOS on-line dissemination (EURONET) privileged users

- Connection of the ICL computer supporting CRONOS with EURONET
- Connection of privileged users to EURONET (Commission's Press and Information offices, National Statistical Institutes, etc.)
- Follow-up and assistance.

5. WORKPLAN:

C4001:

A first critical study of the content and the quality of the data which will immediately be available on EURONET has been completed. However the work will continue in the light of comments from users and of the expansion of the CRONOS data bank. During the period of the programme a number of decisions will need to be taken regarding the use of CRONOS as an appropriate vehicle for new data banks to be established.

C4002:

- Permanent production of manuals
- Collection of information first on data available on CRONOS and analysis of them starting in January 1981.
- Within the period of the programme, the establishment of the first stage of a computerised documentation and catalogue system for CRONOS and eventually other EUROSTAT data.

C4003:

- supply of data to host computers
- support of promotion and training done by host computers
- documentation
- follow-up and assistance.

C4004:

- the technical work making the links with privileged users has already begun. Availability is forecast for the second half of 1981.
- in the light of initial experience it may be possible to conduct experiments in 1982 aimed at exploiting the possibilities of the National Statistical Institutes transmitting statistical data directly to EUROSTAT via such network.

6. FINANCING:

Yes.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

C4001 - C4002

These projects involve a considerable amount of work internally in EUROSTAT, particularly as regards the amount of information to be placed in the documentation system.

C4003 - C4004

As the basic supply of data comes from National Statistical Services there will be a heavy responsibility on the National Statistical Services but in principle no extra workload to maintain the flow of timely information. Close collaboration between EUROSTAT and the National Statistical Services will be required to explore the various possibilities opened up by the networks such as these.

8. WORKING GROUP

Yes.

9. DISSEMINATION:

A considerable number of CRONOS manuals are already available although these are not listed in the list of EUROSTAT publications.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: C4 - Publications and studies

TITLE: Publications

PROJECT NUMBERS: C4005, C4006, and C4007

1. INTRODUCTION:

Conventional printed publications account for a rapidly diminishing proportion of the growing amount of information that EUROSTAT provides to users. On-line dissemination, magnetic tape and micro-fiche already account for the bulk of the output.

Nevertheless, the printed publication remains essential for many purposes and EUROSTAT statistical publications account for nearly one quarter of all official publications other than the Official Journal. In addition to about 100 titles in the official programme, there are many "internal" publications, these latter mainly serving specialised needs and with limited circulation lists.

Work in this area will be more and more concentrated on the increased use of computer-based material - more than a quarter of the publications are already produced by this means - on the selection of Key statistics suitable for this medium, on presentation and interpretation, and on getting the data into the hands of the interested user as quickly as possible.

2. SOURCE:

EUROSTAT

3. AIM:

To ensure that more and more the salient figures will be automatically produced and made available in a systematic and timely manner from the computerised data base.

4. DESCRIPTION:

Work is divided among three projects:

C4005 - Administration

A regular cycle of work beginning, for one year's publications programme, with the preparation of the programme in the previous autumn and ending with the payment of the final invoices at the end of the following year.

C4006 - Information, dissemination and promotion

"EUROSTAT News" (code 921) giving information about EUROSTAT activities and publications is published quarterly. Circulation 13,000.

Mailing lists for all EUROSTAT publications are being reviewed in order to eliminate any waste. New lists will be operational in 1982.

- Catalogues

New catalogues of current publications will be available in 1982. This will be based on a new classification system introduced in 1980. An historical catalogue of EUROSTAT publications should become available during the period of the programme.

C4007 - General statistical publications

These are:

- "Eurostatistics" Code 113 - a monthly publication containing the latest short-term economic and social indicators. Introduced in 1980 it will be reviewed and improved in the course of 1982.
- Basic statistics Code 112 - A small-format yearly publication existing for many years. Circulation 8,000.
- EUROSTAT Review Code 111 - A first experimental issue appeared early in 1981. The aim will be to give a ten year coverage in each annual issue of major Community statistics - including some relating to the work of the Institutions - together with graphs.

In addition, the possibility of adding a fourth general publication - a yearbook containing structural and other data for the latest year for which figures are available - is being examined.

6. FINANCING:

- C4005 - EUROSTAT is the authorising office for the budget for statistical publications (Art 2711)
- C4007 - Credits for expert consultation in new publications.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Considerable administrative work load.

8. WORKING GROUP:

Yes for C 4006

9. DISSEMINATION:

CRONOS: ICG (source of general statistics)

PUBLICATIONS: 1981 - see 5 above