#### CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Work Session on methodological issues involving the integration of statistics and geography (Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 10-12 April 2000)

#### INFORMATION NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS

The UN/ECE Work Session on methodological issues involving the integration of statistics and geography will be held in the

Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Espace de l'Europe 10, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, starting on 10 April 2000 at 9.00

#### I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE MEETING

- (i) Adoption of the agenda.
- (ii) Designation of officers.
- (iii) Survey on GIS use in statistical offices *Presentation by Canada.*
- (iv) Policy and organizational aspects in GIS and statistics

Invited papers by Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and Eurostat, supporting papers from Canada, Poland and Switzerland (3).

 $(v) \qquad \textbf{Guidelines on Cartography for Statistical Purposes} \\$ 

Progress report by the United Kingdom and Finland.

(vi) Spatial database management and (geo-)data warehousing

Invited papers by the Netherlands and United States, supporting papers from Switzerland (2) and United States. Demonstrations by Switzerland and United States.

(vii) Internet and Intranet solutions

Invited papers by Canada and United States, supporting papers from Canada, Finland, Kazakhstan and United States. Demonstration by United States.

(viii) Spatial analysis in a statistical context and disclosure control procedures

Invited papers by France, United Kingdom and the University of Northampton, supporting papers from Slovenia, Switzerland (3), United Kingdom, United States (2), and a joint paper by Finland, Sweden and Norway. Demonstration by Switzerland.

- (ix) Future work
- (x) Adoption of the conclusions reached at the Work Session

#### II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1. The Conference of European Statisticians, at its 1999 plenary session, included this Work Session in its meeting programme (see CES/1999/30/Add.2, programme element 2.6). The Work Session will be held in English only.
- 2. All documentation for the meeting will be made available at the following Internet address:

## http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2000.04.gis.htm

Hard copies of documents will be sent out to participants only if requested (please indicate your request on the Registration Form, or send an e-mail to *josephine.rauss@unece.org*). The secretariat will inform participants by e-mail when documents become available on the Internet.

- 3. The agenda items will be considered based on two main categories of papers, **invited papers** and **supporting papers**. The Steering Group on the preparation of the Work Session has contacted a small number of countries to ask them to prepare an invited paper for specific items. The invited papers will provide the main basis for discussion. However, issues raised in the other papers that countries contribute to the meeting (supporting papers) will also be discussed under that item.
- 4. Consideration of individual agenda items will be led by Session Organisers (Discussants). The sessions will start with the presentation of the invited paper, followed by a brief question period. Supporting papers submitted by countries and organisations will then be introduced, and commented on by the Discussants. The authors will have an opportunity to comment on their paper and to reply to questions. The Session Organisers and authors of both invited and supporting papers are encouraged to keep in close contact in order to better prepare the discussion and to take into account the requirements of authors. The Session Organisers and their relevant contact information are provided below:

## III. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

- 5. The meeting will focus on the substantial topics listed in the Programme of Work of the Conference of European Statisticians under the programme activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues, Programme element 2.6: Geographical and regional data (see CES/1999/30/Add.2).
- 6. Agenda item (iii): Survey on GIS use in statistical offices
- 7. This agenda item will be based on the concise information regarding the state-of-the-art of the database on the implementation of GIS in statistics maintained by Statistics Canada since 1997. The Questionnaire for the update of this database in 2000 has been prepared in cooperation with Statistics Canada, Statistics Netherlands, the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom, and U.S. Bureau of the Census. It will be distributed to participants in January 1999. Countries are encouraged to send their completed Questionnaire to Statistics Canada as soon as possible.

## 8. Agenda item (iv): Policy and organizational aspects in GIS and statistics

**Discussant:** Mr. Dick Meuldijk (Statistics Netherlands)

Addr: Statistics Netherlands
Prinses Beatrixlaan 428
2273 JM VOORBURG
Netherlands

Tel.: (3170) 337 4796 Fax: (3170) 337 5981 e-mail: dmlk@cbs.nl

## **Invited papers:**

- Initiatives taken by the Commission to establish a European geographic information infrastructure (Daniel Rase, Eurostat)
- GIS in Switzerland: synopsis on available data and applications in statistical offices and other federal, cantonal and local administrative authorities (Rainer Humbel, Swiss Federal Statistical Office)
- Statistics: Coming soon to UK town centres (Steven Hall, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, United Kingdom)
- Relief, planning and reconstruction in the wake of hurricane Mitch: an application of geographic information systems (James Jancaitis, U.S. Geological Survey)
- 9. The discussion at this session should address the issues concerning GIS as a core tool for (statistical) process integration and harmonization. The session is expected to focus on organizational and managerial aspects of the whole process of geodata collection, processing, dissemination and policy towards users. Examples of how organizations are setting policy to meet the needs for intelligent decision-making when combining various geospatial, statistical, and non-graphical data sets would be appreciated.
- 10. The discussion could cover issues relating to promotion of the use of geographic tools in organizations, how GIS is disseminated and controlled in organizations, and how standards and good practice are developed and promoted within organizations. Of particular interest are organizational approaches aimed at avoiding inefficient redundancy of data acquisition and storage, insufficient data maintenance, and lack of guidelines for metadata.

# 11. Agenda item (vi): Spatial database management and (geo-)data warehousing

Discussant: Mrs. Randy Fusaro (US Bureau of the Census)

addr.: Chief, TIGER Operations Branch Geography Division/TOB US Census Bureau Washington, DC 20233-7400 USA

Tel.: (1301) 457 1100

Fax: (1301) 457 4710 e-mail: rfusaro@geo.census.gov

## Invited papers:

- U.S. geospatial data clearinghouse: data discovery and access (Doug Nebert, U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee)
- Data warehousing and geo-referenced information in Dutch national registers (Dick Meuldijk, Statistics Netherlands)
- 12. The discussion under this agenda item will focus on the management of spatial data in a database format, particularly in the context of data warehouses that are being established in many statistical offices. The liaisons between geodatabases and classical statistical databases could also be analysed. The organizational and technical aspects of storage and dissemination of spatial data, and the integration of statistics, geographic areas, and boundary sets in a database format are expected to be examined.
- 13. Examples of how organizations are meeting the challenges that arise in finding existing data, and acquiring, managing and maintaining different types of data would be appreciated. The issues dealing with the quality, cost, copyright, and the technical processes in storage, access and maintenance of spatial information are expected to be covered. Of particular interest are efficient tools for data transformation. The discussion is also expected to examine the role of metadata in integrating statistical and spatial data sets from different sources. Contributions identifying effective tools and methodologies in the collection, evaluation and dissemination of data and metadata would be of value.

# 14. Agenda item (vii): Internet and Intranet solutions

**Discussant:** Mr. Tim Davis (Statistics Canada)

Addr.: Director of Geography Division

Statistics Canada Jean Talon Bldg. Tunney's Pasture OTTAWA, Ont. KIA OT6

Canada

Tel.: (1613) 951 9710 Fax: (1613) 951 0569 e-mail: davitim@statcan.ca

#### **Invited papers:**

- Maximising the benefit of your GIS investment using the Internet (Phil Fong, Statistics Canada)
- Paper by Jack Dangermond, ESRI, USA
- 15. Discussion at this session will focus on Internet or Intranet strategies and applications which combine geography and statistics. Interesting and novel applications relating to data, outputs and services provided via the Internet or Intranet would be appreciated. Examples are Internet mapping applications, access to statistics via geographic areas or maps and geographic enquiry systems. Intranet examples could also include the provision of data and applications across organizations, and approaches to providing guidance and standards.
- 16. Particularly welcome would be discussion on the approaches adopted and challenges overcome. In this case, emphasis should be given to lessons learned which will help statistical offices currently considering the development of Internet and Intranet applications.
- 17. Agenda item (viii): Spatial analysis in a statistical context and disclosure control procedures

# **Discussant:** Mr. Gilles Decand (Eurostat)

Addr: Eurostat

Rue Alcide de Gasperi Luxembourg-KIRCHBERG

Luxembourg

Tel: (352) 430133411 Fax (352) 4301 34029

e-mail: gilles.decand@eurostat.cec.be

# Invited papers:

- Spatial homogeneity and territorial discontinuity (Claude Grasnot, France)
- Spatial analysis why bother? (Alistair Calder, ONS, United Kingdom)
- Spatial transformation methods for the analysis of geographic data (Prof. David Briggs, University College Northampton, UK)
- 18. This section will deal with: (i) all aspects of the use of GIS for spatial analysis of data relating to statistics; (ii) disclosure control methods as they relate to the allocation of statistics for small geographical units and where the confidentiality of individuals could be at risk.
- 19. The discussion is expected to consider methods used for spatial analysis and to provide examples of where this form of analysis has identified interesting new information. Lessons learned from work carried out to date would be especially appreciated by member states who are aware of the potential benefits of spatial analysis but who need guidance before using the methodology in their own statistical organizations

#### IV. DEMONSTRATIONS

20. There will be limited opportunities for countries to demonstrate their GIS applications. These demonstrations may consist of electronic presentations, or printed outputs depicting the GIS applications. Bearing in mind the time limitations, it is important that countries inform the secretariat of their intentions to demonstrate as soon as possible so that the work plan of the meeting and final organisation of demonstrations can be settled, and so that the host country (Switzerland) can make the appropriate arrangements. If you wish to make a demonstration, please indicate the topic(s) you will be addressing, and a list of all the equipment that you will require. For any technical questions, please contact Rainer Humbel at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (rainer.humbel@bfs.admin.ch).

#### V. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

# Location of the meeting

- 22. The Work Session will be held at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) in Neuchâtel. It will take place in the two conference rooms situated in the fifth floor. The facilities of the SFSO staff restaurant within the same premises are available to the participants for lunch, snacks and drinks.
- 23. The SFSO building is situated next to the train station, less than five minutes walking distance. Most hotels are within walking distance from the SFSO building. A town map of Neuchâtel is enclosed, showing the hotels, train stations and SFSO building. Bus number 6 runs between downtown (bus stop "Place Pury") and

the railway station every 6-12 minutes.

#### Transportation to and from Neuchâtel

Airports and train connections

- 24. The two major Swiss airports of Zurich and Geneva are equally suitable to reach Neuchâtel by a combination of plane and train. Both airports feature their own train station, accessible under the same roof, from where intercity and other fast trains connect to all the major Swiss cities and towns, usually at regular one hour intervals. There are direct train connections between Zurich Airport and Neuchâtel and also between Geneva Airport and Neuchâtel. The trip from Zurich lasts a bit less than two and a half hours, and the one from Geneva about one and a half hours. The current schedules are shown in Annex 1.
- 25. For short-distance flights, the Bern airport is another convenient alternative to arrive and reach Neuchâtel within about one and a half hours (airport bus and train from the central railway station of Bern). In addition, Neuchâtel is accessible by airport bus and train from the Basel/Mulhouse international airport. Transfer schedules for these airports may be provided on request.
- 26. There is also a TGV line that directly links Paris and Neuchâtel (about a 4 hour trip).

Road transport

Highway A5 Geneva-Neuchâtel (130 km)

Highway A1 Zurich–Bern–Kerzers, continuation on semi-highway to Neuchâtel (150 km)

Highway A2/A1 Basel–Bern–Kerzers, continuation on semi-highway to Neuchâtel (140 km)

# Hotel and travel arrangements

- 27. Participants are requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. Travel and hotel costs will have to be met by the participants themselves. Participants will have to pay for their hotel rooms directly before their departure.
- 28. It is recommended that participants make their hotel reservations **as soon as possible** as the demand for hotel accommodation in April in Neuchâtel is usually high.
- 29. The Congress Service of the Tourism Office in Neuchâtel has a list of hotels of various classes available, and will make reservations for Conference participants at discount prices at the hotels of their choice. In order to benefit from these preferential rates, participants have to use the hotel registration form presented in Annex II and send it to the Congress Service. For further information, the Congress Service can be contacted at the following numbers:

Telephone: + 41 32 889-6890 Fax: + 41 32 889-6296

E-mail: tourisme.neuchatelois@ne.ch

Participants may also wish to refer to other information that is available on the Web site of the Neuchâtel

Tourism Office: http://www.etatne.ch

# Contact persons at the SFSO

Rainer Humbel Head of the Spatial Data Section Espace de l'Europe 10 2010 Neuchâtel

Tel.: + 41 32 713 66 91

Fax: +41 32 713 65 60

E-Mail: rainer.humbel @bfs.admin.ch

Nathalie Diso Liaison Officer Espace de l'Europe 10 2010 Neuchâtel

Tel.: + 41 32 713 60 83 Fax: + 41 32 713 60 93

E-Mail: nathalie diso @bfs.admin.ch

#### Other practical information

#### Post and bank

30. There are several banks and post offices in the centre of Neuchâtel, within easy walking distance of the SFSO and most hotels. The Central Post Office is situated in front of the train station. The main post office downtown is the "Hôtel des postes", where the Tourism Office is also located.

31. Opening hours for post offices are Monday to Friday 7.30–18.30 (Saturday 08.00–11.00), and for banks Monday to Friday 8.15/9.00–16.30 (17.30 on Thursdays). There is also a money change office in the railway station that operates from 6.00–21.00 seven days a week.

# Shopping

32. Shopping hours are from Monday to Friday 8.30–18.30 (20.00 on Thursdays); some shops close during lunch time from about 12.00–14.00. On Saturdays, shops are open from 8.00–17.00 without lunch breaks.

#### **Emergencies**

Police Emergency Phone 117

Police Neuchâtel Phone 032/722-2222

Car rescue (TCS) Phone 140
Fire Phone 118
Ambulances Phone 144

Lost and found office

Faubourg de l'Hôpital 6, Phone 032/722-2222

#### **Taxis**

Taxis are available at the Neuchâtel Railway Station and downtown.

<u>UN/ECE</u> Work Session on methodological issues involving the integration of statistics and geography (Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 10-12 April 2000)

1 copy to:

Date\_\_\_

Mrs. Jana Meliskova

Statistical Division

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

## REGISTRATION FORM

This form should be completed in duplicate by each participant and returned by 1 March 2000

1 copy to:

SFSO

Mr. Rainer Humbel

**Spatial Economics Division** 

Palais des Nations CH-1211 GENEVA 10			ce de L'Europe 10 Shâtel CH-2010			
Switzerland		Switz	zerland			
Tel.: (+4122) 917 4150			(+4132) 713 6691			
Fax: (+4122) 917 0040		Fax: (+4132) 713 6560				
e-mail: jana.meliskova@unece.org		e-ma	il: rainer.humbel@bfs.admin.ch			
1. Surname (Family name)		2. First n	name			
3. Representing (country or organiz	zation)	4. Title (	(Mr., Mrs., Ms)			
5. Mailing address						
6. Tel. No.		7. Fax N	0.			
8. E-mail address:						
9. Requested way of receiving docu	imentation:					
	Paper form		Internet			
	•					
10. Name of your hotel in Neuchâte	1					
	Beaulac		Eurotel			
	Alpes et Lac		Touring au Lac			
11. Date and time of arrival in Neuc	hâtel	12. Date	and time of departure from Neuchâtel			
			-			
13. Special dietary or other requires	nents:					

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

ANNEX I: Train schedules

From		То		From		To	
Zurich Airport	6.39	Neuchâtel	8.59	Neuchâtel	6.00 (1) (2)	Zurich Airport	8.20
Zurich Airport	7.39	Neuchâtel	9.54	Neuchâtel	7.00	Zurich Airport	9.20
Zurich Airport	8.39	Neuchâtel	10.59	Neuchâtel	8.05	Zurich Airport	10.20
Zurich Airport	9.39	Neuchâtel	11.54	Neuchâtel	9.00	Zurich Airport	11.20
Zurich Airport	10.39	Neuchâtel	12.59	Neuchâtel	10.05	Zurich Airport	12.20
Zurich Airport	11.39	Neuchâtel	13.54	Neuchâtel	11.00	Zurich Airport	13.20
Zurich Airport	12.39	Neuchâtel	14.59	Neuchâtel	12.05	Zurich Airport	14.20
Zurich Airport	13.39	Neuchâtel	15.54	Neuchâtel	13.00	Zurich Airport	15.20
Zurich Airport	14.39	Neuchâtel	16.59	Neuchâtel	14.05	Zurich Airport	16.20
Zurich Airport	15.39	Neuchâtel	17.54	Neuchâtel	15.00	Zurich Airport	17.20
Zurich Airport	16.39	Neuchâtel	18.59	Neuchâtel	16.05	Zurich Airport	18.20
Zurich Airport	17.39	Neuchâtel	19.54	Neuchâtel	17.00	Zurich Airport	19.20
Zurich Airport	18.39	Neuchâtel	20.59	Neuchâtel	18.05	Zurich Airport	20.20
Zurich Airport	19.39 (1)	Neuchâtel	21.59	Neuchâtel	19.00	Zurich Airport	21.20
Zurich Airport	20.39	Neuchâtel	22.59	Neuchâtel	20.05	Zurich Airport	22.20
Zurich Airport	21.39 (1)	Neuchâtel	0.12	Neuchâtel	21.00	Zurich Airport	23.20

- (1) Change in Biel/Bienne
- (2) Monday-Saturday

From		To		From		To	
Geneva Airport	6.32 (2)	Neuchâtel	8.04	Neuchâtel	5.55 (1) (4)	Geneva Airport	7.22
Geneva Airport	7.31 (2)	Neuchâtel	9.04	Neuchâtel	6.55	Geneva Airport	8.19
Geneva Airport	8.38	Neuchâtel	10.04	Neuchâtel	7.55	Geneva Airport	9.22
Geneva Airport	9.38	Neuchâtel	11.04	Neuchâtel	8.55	Geneva Airport	10.22
Geneva Airport	10.38	Neuchâtel	12.04	Neuchâtel	9.55	Geneva Airport	11.22
Geneva Airport	11.38	Neuchâtel	13.04	Neuchâtel	10.55	Geneva Airport	12.22
Geneva Airport	12.38	Neuchâtel	14.04	Neuchâtel	11.55	Geneva Airport	13.22
Geneva Airport	13.38	Neuchâtel	15.04	Neuchâtel	12.55	Geneva Airport	14.22
Geneva Airport	14.38	Neuchâtel	16.04	Neuchâtel	13.55	Geneva Airport	15.22
Geneva Airport	15.38	Neuchâtel	17.04	Neuchâtel	14.55	Geneva Airport	16.22
Geneva Airport	16.38	Neuchâtel	18.04	Neuchâtel	15.55	Geneva Airport	17.22
Geneva Airport	17.38	Neuchâtel	19.04	Neuchâtel	16.55	Geneva Airport	18.22
Geneva Airport	18.38	Neuchâtel	20.04	Neuchâtel	17.55	Geneva Airport	19.22
Geneva Airport	19.38	Neuchâtel	21.04	Neuchâtel	18.55	Geneva Airport	20.22
Geneva Airport	20.20 (3)	Neuchâtel	21.58	Neuchâtel	19.55	Geneva Airport	21.22

Geneva	21.09 (3)	Neuchâtel	22.58	Neuchâtel	21.01 (3)	Geneva	22.40
Airport						Airport	
Geneva	22.09 (3)	Neuchâtel	23.58	Neuchâtel	22.01 (3)	Geneva	23.40
Airport						Airport	

- (1) Change Renens (Vd)
- (2) Change in Geneva main station
- (3) Change in Lausanne
- (4) Monday-Saturday

# ANNEX II : Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe

Work Session on methodological issues involving the integration of statistics and geography

# Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 10-12 April 2000

# **HOTEL BOOKING**

TOURISME NEUCHÂTELOIS Case postale 1374 2001 Neuchâtel

Please fax / mail before February 29, 2000 to:

Fax: ++41 (0)32 / 889 62 96 e-mail: tourisme.neuchatelois@ne.ch

		c-man: tour isincincuctions & neith
Pleas	se reserve :	
	Single room	Double room
	In case of double occupa	ncy, name of 2 <sup>nd</sup> person :
	Category:	(See room price-list overleaf)
	Date of arrival :	
	Date of departure:	
	Travel by train	☐ Travel by car
Full r	name	:
Posta	al address	:
Télép	<b>bhone</b> / Telephone :	
e-mai	il:	
We n	need your credit card num	per to confirm your booking :
Credi	it card: ,	Nr
		Expiry date :
betwe betwe	•	ne event, 50 % of room price will be charged ne event, 80 % will be charged
Place	and date :	Signature :

# $2\ 0\ 0\ 0$

# Room rates, including breakfast, service and taxes

		Single room	Double room	Notes
Category, hotel B****	Address, number on the attached map			
Hotel BEAULAC	Esplanade LRobert 2 (no. <b>2</b> on the map) Tel. (4132) 723 11 11 Fax (4132) 725 60 35 e-mail: hotel@beaulac.ch	170	230	At the lakeside, fish dishes and specialty of the month.
C***				
Hotel ALPES ET LAC	Place de la Gare 2 (no. 1 on the map) Tel. (4132) 723 19 19 Fax (4132) 723 19 20 e-mail: hotel@alpesetlac.ch	112 / 134	176 / 198	This 1872 hotel has been entirely remodeled in 1997. 30 rooms in total, 24 overlooking the town, the lake and the Alps
D***				
Hotel EUROTEL	Avenue de la Gare 15-17 (no. <b>5</b> on the map) Tel. (4132) 721 21 21 Fax (4132)724 49 68 e-mail: eurotel@ihtti.ch	95	150	In the centre of town, 500 m from the railway station
Hotel TOURING AU LAC	Place Numa Droz 1 (no. <b>9</b> on the map) Tel. (4132) 725 55 01 Fax (4132) 725 82 43	95	150	Quiet location in the centre of town. Brasserie and dining room overlooking the lake.

We will send you a confirmation of your booking latest 2 weeks before the event. In principe, no mail will be sent before that date.

