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Systems of Social Indicators and Social Reporting: The State of the Art

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1. Introduction

Social reporting at the European level has gained growing importance due to the Maastricht Treaty of the European Union and the objectives formulated there. The growth of individual welfare, especially the enhancement of employment, the improvement of living and working conditions, a high level of social protection, the combat against poverty and social exclusion, as well as the convergence of social conditions between member states are pointed out as principle aims of the European unification. In order to assess the attainment of these goals regular European-wide social reporting is required which is based on a system of cross-nationally comparable social statistics and indicators.

Although some kind of social reporting can be stated in nearly every EU-country and a bulk of international social reports is provided by organisations like United Nations, OECD or the European Commission/Eurostat scientific approaches of social reporting at the European level can hardly be found. Thus, the establishment of a science-based European system of social reporting developed under theoretically and methodologically well-grounded considerations still remains a major challenge. This task is being addressed by the EUREPORTING project "Towards a European System of Social Reporting and Welfare Measurement" which is financed by the European Commission in the framework of the TSER-Programme for a three years period starting in March 1998. The EUREPORTING project consists of three subprojects focussing on specific topics of the overall objective:

- the subproject "System of Social Indicators" is working on the development of a science-based European system of social indicators which may constitute the core of a European Social Report
- the subproject "Stocktaking of Comparative Databases in Survey Research" is working on the development of an information base on the subject matters, comparability, and accessibility of survey data relevant to social reporting.
- the subproject "Access to Comparative Microdata" is working on the development of an information base on the subject matters, comparability, and accessibility of official microdata relevant to social reporting.

All subprojects are carried through in cooperation with scientists from 13 European countries who complement the work by contributing relevant research work and aspects specific to their countries.

The present working paper has been produced within the context of research of the subproject "System of Social Indicators". The objective of this subproject is to develop a coherent system of measurement dimensions and indicators derived from an elaborated theoretical framework and related to well-defined concepts of welfare. Such a system of social indicators should prove as a useful tool for monitoring the level of welfare and social change in Europe and for assessing progress towards the convergence of living conditions in the various member states. The first step of work towards a European system of social indicators consists of taking stock of social indicators research and social reporting at the

national as well as supranational level. This means a systematic compilation and investigation of material on social statistics and indicators, theoretical and methodological work related with it, and of statistical compendiums and social reports available hitherto. The purpose of this rather broad perspective of stocktaking which goes beyond the mere consideration of *systems* of social indicators and social reports in a strict sense is to build the development of a European system of social indicators on a wide range of relevant information and knowledge on important elements and aspects to be considered. The results of this stocktaking are summarised in this working paper.

The material presented in the paper at hand is the result of an extensive search for and review of literature and an inquiry of the activities of organisations and research institutes in the field of social indicators research and social reporting. In this process the Internet proved to be an important information tool (virtual libraries and webpages of the organisations). The literature collected has been stored in a database which - besides the working paper - documents the state of the art in this field.

The working paper will give an overview on social indicators research and social reporting activities focusing on the time period of the last 10 to 15 years. The early beginning of social indicators research and the developments till the 1980s will not be handled in great detail here. In the following we will only give a short overview on this period relying on the work of other authors (1).

For the development of social indicators research and social reporting four phases may be distinguished (2):

1. the origins and the formation of social indicators research from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s
2. the booming phase during the 1970s in which social indicators research and social reporting became established on the national and international level
3. the period of stagnation from the end of the 1970s to the mid-1980s
4. the reviving interest since the mid-1980s.

The present work of stocktaking is concentrated on the research activities during this last phase.

The origins of social indicator research are considered to date back to the mid-1960s in the USA where in the framework of a project of the NASA the side effects of the space programme on society should be explored. In this context the necessity of establishing a system of social indicators was recognised (3). Further work in the 1960s which initiated the social indicators movement was a project of the Russell Sage Foundation on "Monitoring of Social Change" (4) and a project of the U.S. Department for Health, Education and Welfare to develop a prototype of a social report (5).

At the end of the 60s and during the 70s the ideas and propositions have been taken up by other countries as well as by international organisations. The United Nations, for example, developed a System for Social and Demographic Statistics (SDSS) which represented a social accounting system (6). The OECD launched a Social Indicator Development Programme of which a first output consisted in the "List of Social Concerns" (7). The

formation and the spread of the social indicators movement was promoted by the increasing awareness of the insufficiency of economic indicators to describe societal development, the limits of economic growth and the discussion on its social and ecological impacts. In this context the concept of quality of life arose as an alternative to the goal of material level of living.

The measurement of quality of life became - besides monitoring of general social trends - one of the main concerns of social indicators research. As to their function of quality-of-life or welfare indicators social indicators should be directly related to societal goals (normative character of social indicators), they should rather refer to individuals than to society as a whole, and they should rather measure outputs of activities and processes than inputs.

Originally there have been two distinct approaches to the definition and operationalisation of individual welfare: the Scandinavian level of living research and the Anglo-Saxon quality of life research. The Scandinavian approach puts the focus on objective or descriptive rather than evaluative welfare indicators whereas the American/British quality of life approach is concentrated on subjective indicators. Meanwhile a combination of both approaches prevails and objective and subjective welfare indicators are considered as equally important. The different approaches of welfare measurement are the result of different welfare concepts. The Scandinavian level of living research relies on a resource concept of welfare. The individual's command over resources through which the individual can direct its living conditions, the "arenas" (external circumstances) in which the resources are used and their interactions are viewed as essential components of welfare (8). In opposition to this the Anglo-American quality of life approach defines welfare in terms of need satisfaction which can only be assessed by the individuals themselves (9). The nowadays prevailing research strategy to consider objective as well as subjective indicators is based on a definition of welfare or quality of life as the combination of objective living conditions and subjective well-being (10).

Of course, there are various other welfare concepts, too, of which a few examples may be mentioned here. Sen's concept of capabilities can be viewed as relatively close to the resources approach. The capabilities of a person reflect the alternative combinations of "functionings" a person can achieve which mean the "doings and beings" in the life of a person (11). A person's capability set determines his freedom to live a certain type of life. Quality of life is assessed in terms of the capabilities of a person and the focus is on the enhancement of people's capabilities.

Within the Scandinavian welfare research Erik Allardt's approach takes an exceptional position. The Comparative Scandinavian Welfare Study he conducted in 1972 was based on a broader welfare concept which includes objective as well as subjective elements. The welfare concept distinguishes between three basic needs of human beings: Having which refers to material conditions, Loving which means the need for social relations, and Being which stands for needs for personal growth. Within each category need satisfaction is measured by objective and subjective indicators (12).

The more recent concept of sustainability describes a model of societal development which aims at meeting the needs of the present generation without limiting the possibilities of

further generations to meet their needs. Sustainable development is related to three dimensions: an economic, an ecological and a social dimension. The objective is to maintain or to improve the economic, environmental and social conditions of people and thereby to take into consideration aspects of intragenerational as well as intergenerational equity. Actually, the ideas presented in this concept are not totally new but closely related to the concepts of quality of life and qualitative growth as has been pointed out by various researchers in this field (13).

Furthermore, the human development concept may be mentioned which has been developed in the context of work of the UNDP. It covers the ideas of sustainable development and goes beyond it. Besides, there are similarities to the capability approach, thus it represents a very broad and comprehensive concept. Human development is defined as "a process of enlarging people's choices", and "the end of development must be human well-being" (14). Health, education and living standard are considered as essential determinants of the spectrum of available opportunities. The concept of human development considers the dimensions of sustainability, equity, security, empowerment. Human development has to be sustainable, aiming at equal opportunities for all (15). "... Security means that people can exercise these choices safely and freely - and that they can be relatively confident that the opportunities they have today are not totally lost tomorrow" (16). The aspect of empowerment addresses the issue of participation of people in economic, social, cultural and political processes and decisions touching their lives. Participation means to increase people's power to control their lives (17).

Some notes should be made on subjective concepts of welfare. Subjective well-being, satisfaction and happiness are terms which have often been used with an unclear meaning or even considered as synonyms. According to Argyle three components of subjective well-being should be distinguished: satisfaction, positive affect, and absence of distress (18). In the research tradition of the American quality of life approach subjective well-being is also viewed as consisting of different components: positive and negative as well as affective and cognitive aspects. Within this concept satisfaction represents a cognitive dimension, while happiness represents an affective dimension of subjective well-being (19). In accordance with this view is the approach of Allardt who considers satisfaction with living conditions as subjective indicator of meeting needs of having and happiness as subjective indicator of meeting needs of loving (12). Also Nordenfelt defines happiness as one form of well-being but he conceives it as a cognitive concept as well as an emotion (20). Veenhoven defines happiness as the "the degree to which an individual judges the overall quality of his/her own life as favourable" and takes into account affective and cognitive appraisals of life ("hedonic level of affect" respectively "contentment") as different variants of the concept (21). However no distinction is made between happiness and satisfaction at the level of measurement - the terms are used as synonyms.

While happiness describes an individual's evaluation of his/her life as a whole the concept of livability has been introduced by Veenhoven as a performance criterion of societies. The livability of a nation is "defined as the degree to which its provisions and requirements fit with the needs and capacities of its citizen" (22). There are physiological needs (e.g. for food, shelter) as well as psychological needs (e.g. a sense of security, identity) a society must meet. It is proposed to measure the concept of livability by output indicators showing

the "flourishing" of people: health indicators and indicators of overall happiness and satisfaction.

The perceived security and trust in the future a society is able to provide have been emphasised as an important aspect of the concept of livability (23). This aspect had also been described as an essential dimension of the human development concept. Thus the human development concept presently seems to be the most comprehensive and far-reaching concept of welfare.

In the following chapter 2 we will first take stock of the activities of international organisations - OECD, Eurostat/European Community, and the various UN organisations and specialised agencies (UNEP, UNDP, UNCHS, UNSD, UNHCR, UNICRI, UN/ECE, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, World Bank) - in the field of social indicators research and social reporting. We will review the efforts of developing comprehensive systems of indicators and related work as well as the most important comprehensive statistical compendiums and social reports. The overwhelming part of the chapter is designated for work on social indicators and social reporting in special domains or for special population groups. The domains considered are population, education and culture, employment, poverty and social exclusion, health, housing, human settlements and transport, environment and sustainability, and crime. The population groups selected are women (including the issue of gender inequality), older people, children, disabled, and migrants.

Chapter 3 of the paper deals with social indicators research and social reporting at the national level. Here we will consider the activities in the 15 EU countries, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Norway, Poland, and Switzerland. Partially, we can fall back on support from the collaborating researchers in the various countries, who provided papers, literature lists and other information on the respective countries. The chapter will mainly try to compare the topics, dimensions and indicators covered by the major social reports of the countries.

Finally, chapter 4 will provide a summary and an evaluation of the state of the art with respect to the objective of developing a European System of Social Indicators.

2. International Approaches of Social Indicators Research and Social Reporting

2.1 General Activities in the Field of Social Indicators Research and Social Reporting

2.1.1 Development of Systems of Indicators and Related Work

Social indicators research within international organisations was initiated and inspired by the work on social indicators undertaken in the USA in the mid-1960s. All organisations considered here - UNO, OECD, European Commission - started to develop comprehensive systems of social indicators at the end of the 1960s or the beginning of the 1970s.

As to the United Nations Organisations (**UNO**) two different phases of work on social indicators systems may be distinguished. The work from the end of the 1960s to the end of the 1980s is essentially characterised by one major stream concluding with the publication of the structure of a rather comprehensive indicator system. After that period there have been several single initiatives of compiling sets of indicators which were mostly connected with major international conferences.

In the late 1960s work on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SDSS) was taken up which represented a social accounting system (1). This system was later transformed to a social indicators system; a Framework for the Integration of Social, Demographic and Related Statistics (FSDS) was developed (2). A further extension and updating of this framework in the end of the 1980s resulted in the "Handbook on Social Indicators" (3). In the handbook a list of subject-matter fields and topics relating to social policy concerns is proposed which is viewed as a first step in developing a social indicators system. The presented subject-matter framework covers the areas of population, human settlements and housing, households and families, health, education, employment, socio-economic groups and social mobility, income and consumption, social security, leisure, culture and communications, public order and safety. For each area several dimensions are specified and illustrative indicators are suggested. As a general strategy the proposition is made to build tables of the essential data and statistics structured by some basic classifications from which the indicators can be calculated. These tables may be conceived as a bridge between the raw data and the indicators (4).

The Handbook on Social Indicators served as the methodological basis for the fourth issue of the "Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators 1988" (5). Furthermore, in the context of the programme of establishing a new "United Nations Economic and Social Information System" (UNESIS) for the Secretariat a "Common Data Base (CDB)" containing a module with demographic and social indicators was created whose structure corresponds to that of the Handbook (6).

Besides these efforts the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) was concerned with the international measurement of socio-economic development and the establishment of a corresponding data base of development indicators. The work started at the beginning of the 1970s and was updated in 1985 (7). Based on universally accepted goals indicated in international declarations and

programmes an initial set of 100 indicators was compiled and subsequently reduced to a list of 40 social and economic indicators.

During the last decade the United Nations' activities in the development of social indicators were strongly connected with efforts to monitor the achievement of goals and targets which have been adopted for the 1990s at international conferences (8). For example, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 or the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 approved a series of social policy goals concerning the areas of population, education, health, employment, poverty, social integration, and gender equality (9, 10). In 1989 an Inter-agency Working Group was established to develop social indicators for monitoring progress towards development goals. A set of 34 "priority" indicators containing indicators of mortality, health, education, social expenditure and gender equality was selected (11). In 1995 an "Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences" proposed a list of five policy themes and main areas of social concern provided to form the basis for a framework for social statistics. Besides that, a Minimal National Social Data Set (MNSDS) of 15 indicators from various domains to be compiled by every country was suggested (12, 13). The priority indicators as well as the MNSDS partially include indicators of little relevance to developed countries. This is still more true for two further activities of this kind: The "Task Force on Basic Social Services for All" of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) identified priority goals for six areas, developed the relevant indicators and defined precise benchmarks for them (14). In co-operation with the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD and the World Bank the United Nations made up a working set of 16 core indicators appropriate for monitoring the achievement of six key goals concerning poverty, education, gender equality, mortality, health, and environment (15).

The first activities of the **OECD** in social indicators research are represented by the 'Programme of Work on Social Indicators' launched in 1970. The aim of this programme was to supplement economic indicators in the measurement of social well-being in such areas as health, education, working life and leisure, physical environment, financial and personal security; it can be seen as attempt to measure the quality of life in OECD Member countries. The first major achievement of the programme was the publication of a "List of Social Concerns Common to Most OECD Countries" in 1973 (16, 17). In 1979, the OECD Council requested that a List of Social Indicators should be worked out containing specific indicators for each area of social concern: "The OECD List of Social Indicators" was worked out and published in 1982 (18). This List of Social Indicators represents the state-of-the-art at the beginning of the 1980s and was designed to measure trends in individual well-being following the former OECD List of Social Concerns. The OECD's effort to develop a system of social indicators was discontinued after the publication of the List of Social Indicators, the OECD started to focus the research on indicators on specific areas such as education or environment (see 2.2.2 respectively 2.2.7).

At the beginning of the 1970s, the **European Community** also started efforts in developing social indicators to monitor the social situation within the European Union. The need of statistics on social conditions and trends in Member countries was made explicit in the Social Action Programme submitted by the European Commission and approved by the European Council in 1974. One of the objectives of this programme was to provide

comprehensive and comparative data on the developments in the social situation in the Member countries. The results of this programme are three publications on "Social Indicators for the European Community" in 1977, 1979 and 1984 (see 2.1.2). In the 1990s, Eurostat is harmonising data on the social situation in Europe as a consequence to the social paragraph (Article 1) of the Maastricht Treaty (1992): " The Community and the Member States shall have as their objectives the promotion of employment, improved living and working conditions, proper social protection, dialogue between management and labour, the development of human resources with a view to lasting high employment and the combating of exclusion. To this end the Community and Member States shall implement measures which take account of the diverse forms of national practices, in particular in the field of contractual relations, and the need to maintain the competitiveness of the Community's economy".

Eurostat's "European Social Indicators" project (1995-1997) was working on output-orientated indicators to monitor impacts on social exclusion, cohesion, convergence and equal opportunities at the European Union level. Taking the OECD List of Social Indicators as starting point the creation of social indicators was guided by existing national data which can be harmonised. This pragmatic approach lead to a list of more than 140 indicators (19) covering a broad range of life domains: demography, participation, health, income, consumption, employment, earnings and labour costs, housing, justice and security, geographical isolation, social relations, leisure, education, social protection, working conditions and Maastricht criteria (Economic policy indicators to assess the consequences of the European Monetary Union for the social conditions). Based on this list of "European Social Indicators" Eurostat intends to publish a pocket book of social indicators annually, the first of this kind was published in 1998 (20).

Beyond the work of international organisations there have been recent propositions for a European system of social reporting which emphasised a new, much broader perspective than traditional approaches of social reporting. As the focus of traditional social reporting is on output indicators of quality of life a European system of social reporting should also be directed towards the monitoring of the institutional configurations, especially of the welfare state institutions in the European countries. Institutional differences between countries are viewed as potential explanatory variables for differences of individual welfare between countries (21). An input-throughput-output model of welfare production is proposed as the basis of an European system of socio-economic indicators, where the input side is represented by indicators of welfare production, the throughput indicators are the institutional arrangements which transform the inputs, and the output indicators consist in quality of life measures. Referring to this model an enhancement of traditional output-oriented social reporting by also considering the input and the throughput side is advocated (22). This approach has been implicitly followed by Vogel (23) who examined the relation between differences in the institutional configuration of welfare delivery systems of European countries and differences in the inequality of living conditions.

Reviewing the efforts of international organisations in the development of comprehensive systems of social indicators a common characteristic can be seen in their reference to social policy concerns and/or universally accepted goals as main dimensions of the system. However the indicator systems are missing a real theoretical foundation which defines the concept of welfare used and explains the relations between the various components. The

above mentioned model of welfare production could constitute one aspect of a theoretical elaboration of a system of social indicators.

2.1.2 Comprehensive Statistical Compendiums and Social Reports

The international organisations edit a bulk of publications which contain comprehensive statistical information on all domains of life. Partially they have the character of table volumes or statistical compendiums, partially they can be considered as social reports. The most important of them are listed in a synoptic table (table 1). The table provides a rough overview on the respective topics covered by the statistics and indicators of each publication with the exception of economic indicators. However, it has to be considered that some volumes treat a particular subject or domain in a very extensive and/or intensive manner while other ones only cast an eye on it.

The **UNO** and its related agencies have regularly published comprehensive volumes of social statistics and indicators since the mid-1950s. The statistical framework of the "Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators 1988" relies to the Handbook on Social Indicators. The compendium presents 35 tables for 178 countries (1). Besides an introductory chapter on past work on social indicators and the explanations on definitions, data sources and questions of cross-national comparability in each chapter there are no verbal descriptions or discussion of results. This is also true of the voluminous United Nations Statistical Yearbook which provides statistics on the topics listed in table 1 but otherwise is mainly concentrated on economic data (2).

By way of contrast another regular publication - the "Report on the World Social Situation" - rather shows the character of a social report (3). It describes, analyses and discusses the development of social conditions in different life domains for various regions and countries of the world illustrated by many tables and graphs. The disaggregations vary from domain to domain; often the results are only differentiated by regions or stage of development of countries (developed, transition, developing countries). Thus, instead of a systematic tabulation of all statistics and indicators by all individual countries a rather selective, problem-oriented approach has been chosen for this report. The last volume has a focus on the core issues of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen 1995): eradication of poverty, expansion of productive employment and social integration.

The Statistical Yearbook of the ECE provides for each topic a very short summary text of the main results and the definitions of the indicators (4). Besides the indicator tables for the various domains the book presents some baseline statistics on one page for every member country (country profiles) (5). In total the character of this publication is that of a table volume whose statistics and indicators provide very rich and detailed information.

The World Bank has mainly published three kinds of comprehensive compilations of social indicators. First, the "Social Indicators of Development" presents - besides an international comparison of few selected economic and social indicators - various poverty indicators concerning income poverty, education, health, and social security and indicators on resources and expenditures (human and natural resources, income, expenditures, investment in human capital) on a double page for each country (country pages) (6). The

situation of each country is outlined with respect to three reference groups of countries defined by income level and geographic region. Besides an introduction and some technical notes there is no text explaining the results. Second, since more than 20 years the World Development Report (WDR) - a totally different kind of publication - has annually been edited. Each report has a main part on a special theme discussed in detail. A second part consists of about 20 uncommented tables with "Selected World Development Indicators" (7). Third, a new volume of tables was launched in 1997, the "World Development Indicators", which contains more than 600 social, economic and environmental indicators (8). All World Bank publications mentioned are also available in electronic form and a great part of the tables is accessible via Internet (9).

The Human Development Report (HDR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published annually since 1990 is a report with some similarities to the WDR. Each edition is concentrated on a special theme and discusses actual trends and problems. Furthermore, a comprehensive part of tables provides about 350 indicators for more than 170 countries (in the latest edition) (10). In contrast to the WDR the HDR has a much stronger focus on *social* indicators and uses a continuous conceptual framework for its analyses, the concept of human development as "a process of enlarging people's choices" (11). Furthermore, a comprehensive index for measuring the stage of human development in a country - the Human Development Index - and several other indices capturing further aspects of the concept have been proposed.

As mentioned above, the **OECD's** activities in the field of social indicators research and social reporting of the last decade is limited to special fields of interest, so there are only few comprehensive statistical compendiums and social reports. The compendium of social indicators "Living Conditions in OECD Countries" (1986) presents information obtained from available data in OECD Member countries concerning the indicators in the OECD List of Social Indicators to identify important aspects of societal well-being (12). The report on "Social Change in OECD Countries 1950-1980" (13) is highlighting social trends and developments in OECD countries, i.e. in that period of time in which many OECD countries established comprehensive welfare systems. Both studies are analysing the level of well-being internationally, but because of the lack of comparable data at this time it was not possible to make comparisons between various countries. Beside the report on the structure and performance of Member countries' economies (14) containing only tables of data for a range of comparative indicators, there are no comprehensive social reports by the OECD in the 1990s.

The first efforts of the **European Community** to develop social indicators at the European level at the beginning of the 1970s were the basis for the publication of "Social Indicators for the European Community" in 1977, 1979 and 1984 (15) presenting a selection of statistics on social conditions and trends in the European Union Member countries in the main fields of social interest - such as demography, employment or education - back to 1960, but because of the lack of homogenous data, inter-country comparisons are very limited. "Basic Statistics of the European Union", a statistical information source for a wide public use with statistical tables and indicators is published by the European Commission from 1958 to 1997 (16). This statistical volume provides data to compare the major aspects of all the European Union Member states, other European countries, the United States, Canada, Japan and - in the 1990s - the CIS and Central and Eastern

European countries. Since 1988, Eurostat is publishing regularly "Europe in Figures" (17), which gives an overview of the European Union and provides statistics on population and social conditions, economics and finance, production, and external relations, not for scientific, but for a greater public use. "Europe in Figures" was permanently enlarged and further improvements in terms of adding indicators were made, so the latest edition in 1995 provides statistical data on the mid-1990s and for population statistics the time series go back to 1960. The publication of "Facts through Figures 1996" (18) by Eurostat is also designed for the wider general public, it provides data on indicators for several life domains for the middle of the 1990s to draw a statistical portrait of the European Union. There is a second volume of this publication, which was published in 1998 (18). A more analytical report is the "Social Portrait of Europe" (19) produced by Eurostat since 1991 on a regular basis. The "Social Portrait of Europe" contains detailed information and indicators of the social conditions and trends in Europe. Furthermore, the Eurostat's Yearbook (20-23) is edited since 1995, which is comparing the main social and economic indicators - by means of tables, graphs and cards - of the European Union countries, the EFTA-countries, the United States, Canada and Japan for the last ten years. Several brief reports providing the latest data or analysis of a specific social concern - such as social security, migration or part-time work - are published each year by Eurostat since the end of the 1980s called "Statistics in Focus" (24). Because of the growing interest in European social reporting, Eurostat launched the "European Social Indicators" project in 1995 aiming to build social indicators for several life domains based on Eurostat's harmonised data sources, like the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) or the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The result of this effort was the booklet entitled "Living conditions in Europe" (25), which was published in 1998 for the first time and which will be up-dated annually. "Living Conditions in Europe" provides data on selected social indicators in twelve life domains, trying to give a comprehensive picture of the Western European living conditions for the mid-1990s through statistical figures and graphs, i.e. there are no descriptions or interpretations of the presented data because of the intention to produce some kind of reference book on social indicators for European living conditions.

Furthermore, there are social reports by Eurostat with a specific view on the social situation in the European Union: men and women, youth, and a comparison of the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States (26-28). To show the strengths and weaknesses of each region within the European Union Eurostat is publishing a statistical yearbook with comparable data on the main economic and social characteristics of the EU regions since 1971 (29) and since 1993 the series "Portrait of the Regions" (30) is comparing the size, environment, infrastructures, population, economy and employment of regions within the European Union, EFTA countries and the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The report on the social and economic situation of inhabited islands of the European Union (31) follows the same structure as the "Portrait of the Regions". The Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion published in 1999 the "Sixth Periodic Report on the Social and Economic Situation and Development of Regions in the European Union", the last in a series of triennial reports on the main trends in the regions over the last decade in terms of the economy, the labour market and demographic changes (32). The successor of the periodic report is the report on recent trends of the convergence process and cohesion in the European Union: the "First Cohesion Report" was adopted in 1996 (33).

Besides the United Nations, the OECD, the European Commission/Eurostat there are of course other actors who have published comprehensive international social reports. For the most part they are based on the data compiled by the organisations mentioned above. Thus the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research edited a report which describes and discusses - in a very detailed and elaborated manner - the major social trends, problems and challenges as well as social policies within the UN-European region. An annex contains a large compilation of social indicators providing empirical evidence for the developments described. The focus is on the domains of population, work and education, wealth, welfare, health and social problems (35). Furthermore, the method of time-space analysis as a useful tool for evaluating a country's relative stage of development is demonstrated (36).

As a major problem of nearly all statistical compendiums and social reports mentioned here the limited cross-national comparability of the data has to be emphasised. Thus, the efforts of Eurostat in harmonisation of data are an important milestone in the development of a European system of social reporting.

Table 1: Selected Statistical Compendiums and Social Reports of International Organisations

	Population	Migrants/ Foreigners	Households and Families	Women	Education	Standard of Living	Time Use and Leisure	Culture	Communication	Science/ Technology	Participation	Health	Labour	Public Expenditure	Private Consumption	Social Security	Income	Poverty	Crime	Housing/Hu- man settlements	Transport	Environment
UN: Compendium of Social Statistics 1988	X	X	X		X			X	X		X	X	X	X			X		X	X		
UN: Statistical Yearbook 1995	X		X		X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X						X	X
UN: World Social Situation in the 1990s	X	X			X			X				X	X	X			X	X		X		
UN: Report on the World Social Situation 1997	X	X			X							X	X					X				
UN/ECE: Statistical Yearbook 1996-1997	X	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	X					X		X	X	X
World Bank: World Development Report, 1990-1998	X			X	X							X					X					X
World Bank: World Development Indicators	X	X		X	X				X	X		X	X				X	X			X	X
UNDP Human Development Report, 1990-1998	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			X
OECD, Living Conditions in OECD Countries, 1986	X				X		X					X	X				X		X	X		
OECD, Social Change in OECD Countries 1950-1980, 1980	X				X							X	X				X			X		X
OECD, Economies at a Glance. Structural Indicators, 1996					X		X					X	X	X			X					X
Eurostat, Social Indicators for the EC, 1977,1979 and 1984	X				X	X							X			X	X			X		
EC, Eurostat, Basic Statistics of the European Union, 1958-1997	X			X						X			X			X	X				X	X
Eurostat, Europe in Figures, 1988, 1989,1992, 1995 and 1996	X				X	X							X									X
Eurostat, Facts through Figures, 1996 and 1998	X	X			X							X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
Eurostat, Social Portrait of Europe, 1991, 1996 and 1998	X		X		X	X						X	X		X		X					
Eurostat, Eurostat Yearbook, 1995- 1998	X	X	X		X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Eurostat, Living Conditions in Europe, 1998	X	X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Eurostat, Men and Women in the European Union, 1995	X	X	X	X									X			X	X					
Eurostat, The CIS & EU Facts and Figures 1995, 1995	X	X	X						X			X	X								X	X
Eurostat, Regions. Statistical Yearbook, 1971ff.	X	X			X	X															X	
Eurostat, Portrait of the Regions & Portrait of the Islands, since 1993	X	X			X	X							X				X					
EC, DG XVI: 1 st -6 th Periodic Report on the Social and Economic Situation and Development of Regions in the European Union, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1994, 1999	X				X				X	X			X								X	X
EC, DG XVI: First Cohesion Report 1996, 1996					X	X			X	X			X				X				X	X

2.2 Activities in Special Fields of Social Indicators Research and Social Reporting

2.2.1 Population

In the field of demographic reports the United Nations show the greatest efforts, whereas the OECD's population statistics are an integrated part of the comprehensive statistical compendium or reports. At the European level publications from Eurostat, the Council of Europe as well as single contributions outside the international organisations can be found, which focus on monitoring population trends comparatively.

The **United Nations** Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) is the main compiler and provider of international population statistics within the United Nations System. Since 1949 its Statistics Division has annually published the Demographic Yearbook which is a very comprehensive compilation of data based on questionnaires sent to about 220 national statistical offices or governments. Each volume contains a small part on a special topic (e.g. "household composition" in the latest issue) and an extensive part of tables most of them published annually. In the latest edition of the Demographic Yearbook (1) these tables provide information on population size and structure, natality, general mortality, foetal, infant and maternal mortality, marriages and divorces.

In 1977, on recommendation of the World Population Conference 1974 at Bucharest, the Population Division of DESIPA launched a biennial publication titled "World Population Monitoring" (2-5). With the exception of the latest issue each report contains besides a special part on a particular theme a general part on population trends and policies. This part covers the topics of population growth and structure, fertility, mortality, population distribution, and international migration. For each topic, at first the population trends are described and discussed in detail and illustrated by tables and figures on a fairly rough regional disaggregation level. Few tables are disaggregated by countries. Secondly, information on the policies of the various countries is given in standard tabular forms. As opposed to that the latest edition has the main focus on the special theme (5), but there is a large annex of tables which contain most of the statistics on population trends and policies mentioned above.

The data sources of the World Population Monitoring concerning the population trends are mostly the United Nations "World Population Prospects" or national sources. The World Population Prospects are biennially prepared by the Population Division; they contain world population estimates and projections concerning population size and growth, fertility and mortality (6). The data on population policies are from the Population Division's "Global Population Policy Database" . It comprises nearly 200 countries and is regularly updated based on the official replies of governments to United Nations Population Inquiries or on other national sources (7).

Apart from the DESIPA the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) has issued an annual report since 1978: The State of World Population. Each report deals with a particular theme (8-11). Since 1995, the reports have relied on the themes of the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, 1994 (12). The

ICPD Programme of Action set out precise quantitative goals in the area of education, mortality, and reproductive health (13); for each area several indicators were proposed (14). The tables presented at the end of the reports contain selected indicators for monitoring the ICPD goals (15).

Besides these rather general and comprehensive approaches of population monitoring there are also special research programmes. The "Fertility and Family Surveys in Countries of the ECE Region" is a survey programme launched by the Population Activities Unit (PAU) of the ECE to investigate partnership and reproductive behaviour and attitudes in about 20 ECE member countries (16). The surveys were mainly conducted in the first half of the 1990s. Each participating country had to prepare a standard country report with standard tables on household composition, parental home, partnership formation, partnership dissolution, children, fertility regulations, fertility preferences and other (17). By means of this standardisation cross-national comparisons can be well done.

The "Demographic Statistics" of **Eurostat** are published since 1977 on an annual basis (19). This comprehensive statistical yearbook provides detailed information on population change and structure and other main demographic aspects such as fertility, nuptiality, mortality and migration by means of tables, graphs and few maps supplemented by brief descriptions on the demographic situation in the European Union as well as in the other countries covered, these are the 18 countries of the European Economic Area and Switzerland and in the 1998 edition for the first time the countries of Central Europe, and Cyprus and Malta. Where available, time series go back to 1950.

In Article 7 of the Maastricht Treaty the need for a demographic report was emphasised: "The Commission shall draw a report each year on progress in achieving the objective of Article 1, including the demographic situation in the Community ..." . Since 1995 the European Commission (DG V) - in co-operation with Eurostat - is working out the report on the demographic situation (20-22). The focus of this report is on the demographic development, in 1998 the demographic trends in the applicant countries were considered, too. These demographic reports are rather descriptive than analytical contributions of demographic problems within Europe.

The Council of Europe is publishing a yearbook on "Recent Demographic Developments in Europe" since 1978 (23) with the latest available information on population development in Europe in co-operation with national statistical offices. The 1998-volume is covering the 40 Member States of the Council of Europe and additionally six non-member European countries. This yearbook provides a general assessment of the demographic trends in Europe, tables and graphs of the main demographic indicators as well as national reports for each country with tables presenting the latest developments in the main demographic indicators with a brief description of the developments in each country. The data - which are provided by the members of the European Population Committee and the national statistical offices - partly go back to the 1960s and 1970s.

Several contributions on general and specific population issues and demographic trends can be found since the beginning of the 1990s. A comprehensive report on European population in the 1990s was edited by David Coleman in 1996 (24), which provides revised and updated versions of papers of a conference on Europe's Population in the 1990s

held at the London School of Economics in April 1993 on the main aspects of demography in the East and West of Europe. There are few other up-to-date publications in the field of comparative population studies (25, 26) covering the European region.

In Germany, the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) (27) is developing a family reporting system for Europe to describe the developments and trends of household and family structures within Europe since the beginning of the 1990s. The Mannheim International Family Policy Project developed a comparative family policy database including time-series and information on institutional regulations in the field of family policy. The database aims at providing information and becoming a base for comparative analyses and family policy monitoring in Europe (28). The EURODATA department (29) at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) is collecting data on demography, and household and family statistics. In the spring edition of the 'EURODATA Newsletter' in 1997 (30) European family indicators were published containing indicators on population movements, population structure, household structure, family structure, household amenities, female work participation as well as macroeconomic indicators.

2.2.2 Education, Culture, Science

The United Nations, the European Union and the OECD are all very active in the development and improvement of educational indicators and educational reporting, whereas also common efforts of these supranational organisations can be stated as for example the joint education questionnaire (UOE-questionnaire). The strengthened work in the field of education of the supranational organisations may be the reason why there are only few other international contributions on educational indicators or educational reporting.

The **United Nations** Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) compiles and reports data on education, science, and culture from about 200 countries in the world. There are joint questionnaires (UOE questionnaires) of UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat, by which statistical information from Member States is collected. The three organisations also co-operate in the revision of the ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) (1)

As to education statistics a wide range of data from the database of UNESCO's Statistics Division is accessible through the Internet (2). A conceptual framework for "World Education Indicators" is also presented there. In this framework indicators on resources (financial, human), indicators on demand for education (e.g. illiteracy), indicators on access and participation (e.g. enrolment rates, intake rates), indicators on internal efficiency (e.g. repetition rates) and indicators on educational outcomes (e.g. educational attainment) are distinguished (3). Further aspects to be considered are "quality" and "equity/disparity".

UNESCO regularly publishes two main books containing education statistics and indicators: the World Education Report and the Statistical Yearbook. The World Education Report has been published every two years since 1991; the most recent volume appeared in 1998 (4). Each edition has a focus on a special theme which is discussed in content. An

annex of tables presents more than 40 educational indicators of the kind mentioned above and some cultural indicators for various regions of the world and for about 200 countries.

The Statistical Yearbook annually published since 1964 is a mere compilation of tables concerning three domains: education, science and technology, culture and communication. In the area of education the 1997 volume presents 29 tables on education structure, enrolment ratios, teaching staff, pupils, students and expenditures (5). The part on science and technology contains 6 tables covering information on personnel engaged in and expenditures on research and experimental development. Statistics on culture and communication are compiled in 23 tables concerning the topics of libraries, book production, newspapers and periodicals, films and cinemas, broadcasting and museums.

The themes of science/technology and culture are discussed in content in separate publications respectively: the World Science Report and the World Culture Report. The World Science Report is biennially published since 1994. It consists of a collection of essays containing many tables and figures. The report from 1998 has two main parts: Like in the previous edition, part 1 reviews the status of science in several regions of the world with an introductory chapter providing an overview on scientific and technological expenditures, personnel and output world-wide. Like in the 1996 report part 2 handles "contemporary issues", e.g. food security, management of water (in 1998) or biodiversity, land degradation (in 1996) (6, 7).

In 1998, on recommendation of the World Commission on Culture and Development, the first World Culture Report has been published (8). The World Culture Report represents a collection of essays ordered into various fields of subjects. Some preparatory work by UNRISD & UNESCO has preceded it, including a workshop on the state of cultural statistics and some papers on conceptual issues of cultural indicators (9-12). There, different propositions were made what should be measured by cultural indicators and what categories of indicators should be distinguished. The propositions cover the area of human, political and cultural rights and freedoms, the wide range of cultural activities, and aspects of cultural diversity, cultural dialogue and cultural globalisation. These conceptual considerations are also found in several essays of the World Culture Report but due to lack of data they are only partially reflected in the compilation of culture indicators in the statistical tables part at the end of the report. The tables appear under the headings "cultural activities", "cultural practices and heritage", and "cultural trade & communication".

Prior work of UNESCO on cultural indicators concerned the development of a Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS) in 1986 (13). The FCS was designated to serve as a framework for the compilation of cultural statistics within a matrix of ten cultural spheres and various activities/processes - so-called functions - associated with them. Based on the FCS and related to the policy goal of broadening cultural participation which was formulated for UNESCO's World Decade for Cultural Development, a set of cultural indicators has been proposed and structured within an input-throughput-output matrix at the joint UN-ECE/UNESCO work session on cultural statistics in 1993 (14).

As to UNESCO's future work on statistics and indicators there are plans to transform the Division of Statistics into an UNESCO International Institute for Statistics (UIS) until 1999. The objective of such an institute should go far beyond the mere collection of data.

The institute should develop an indicators system as a framework for the collection of data. The ultimate goal would be a "world indicators framework " which would improve international comparability (15).

The first effort of the **OECD** to develop international education indicators in 1973 (21) failed and during the 1980s only a few statistical compendiums about education in OECD countries were published (22). The second attempt to improve indicators on education at the beginning of the 1990s was successful: In 1992 the OECD started a series of annually edited volumes called "Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators" (23). The work on this second effort in educational statistics and indicators started with the establishment of the OECD's 'Centre for Educational Research and Innovation' (CERI) in 1988; difficulties in international comparisons led to the initiation of this programme. The aim of CERI was the development of a system of internationally comparable educational indicators of the performance of education and training systems as instrument for evaluating education systems and as an useful tool for educational decision-making in OECD Member countries. Furthermore, the CERI made efforts to improve the quality, reliability and timeliness of education indicators and the corresponding data sources. Therefore, the publication of "Education at a Glance" refers to data which are continuously refined and worked out by the OECD in co-operation with national authorities to improve the international comparability of the statistics. The CERI's 'International Education Indicators'-Project (INES) developed a set of indicators, which informs about the demographic, economic and social contexts of education systems, the features of education systems, and the outcomes of education (24, 25). The work on the "Education at a Glance" editions is a continuing process of improving this concept and the data collection on the international level as well as a process of ongoing developments in terms of a wider range of indicators (such as adult literacy and lifelong learning) and in terms of the inclusion of further countries. In 1995, these efforts resulted in a joint education statistics questionnaire of the UNESCO, the OECD and Eurostat, the so-called UOE-questionnaire. Since 1996, the "Education Policy Analyses" complements the OECD's "Education at a Glance" editions with a selection of statistics and indicators for detailed analyses on policy-relevant themes (26).

With "Education Statistics 1985-1992" the OECD published long historical series of basic education data for the period from 1985 to 1992 (27), which were also used to calculate the educational indicators published in the 1992-volume of "Education at a Glance".

Based on this work on educational indicators the OECD carried out different studies about the relation of education and unemployment (28), educational outcomes (29), quality of schools (30), human capital accounting (31) and about education and equity (32) which partly were further developing international education indicators such as 'students outcome indicators' (29).

Recent approaches of the OECD in the field of education are firstly the work on human capital investment (33, 34) for which an initial set of indicators had been developed using existing data such as the first 'International Adult Literacy Survey' (IALS) from 1994 which measured adult skills directly by the use of a literacy threshold (35). The indicators on human capital investment are created to measure the input, output and the return of education to identify the impact of education and training budgets on the economic performance and the welfare of societies. Secondly, within the framework of the INES-

Project new indicators on 'cross-curriculum competencies' - such as problem solving skills or democratic and social values - are developed since 1993 (36) aiming at the inclusion in the annual "Education at a Glance" edition.

The intensive work on educational statistics and indicators within the **European Union** started also in the 1990s, there were only few publications of education statistics from Eurostat at the end of the 70s on ordinary school and university education (40). In 1995 the joint publication of "Key Data on Education in the European Union" by Eurostat and the European Commission/Directorate-General XXII "General and Vocational Education, Youth" in co-operation with EURYDICE (The European Information Network) combines quantitative indicators with qualitative information to improve the assessment of education policies and the possibilities of the comparison of educational systems in the European Union Member countries. Until now there are three editions (41-43), each of them is providing a special focus on a specific objective relevant for the Community in common. Efforts were made to update and enlarge the range of indicators (e.g. in terms of access to tertiary education) as well as to include EFTA and Central and Eastern European countries. From 1997 onwards a general publication on "Key Data on Education in the European Union" is published every two years in alternation with a special edition on specific topics of educational key data. Since 1997 there is a parallel publication on "Key Data on Vocational Training in the European Union" in co-operation with CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) (44). This publication provides indicators of vocational education and training for which - until then - not much improvements had been made because of the lack of comparable data and great differences in the culture and systems of vocational education between the Member states.

Other efforts were made on the development of quality and performance indicators of vocational education by CEDEFOP (45) and on key indicators for vocational education and training in Central and Eastern Europe by the 'European Training Foundation' (ETF) (46). FORCE - the action programme for the development of continuing vocational training in the European Community - in co-operation with Eurostat's 'Working Party on Education and Training Statistics' conducted the 'Continuing Vocational Training Survey in Enterprises 1994' (CVTS) which was the first survey of this kind on the European Union level (47, 48).

In 1995 and 1998, Eurostat was publishing "Education Across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators" (49, 50) which is a very comprehensive publication with comparable data for the Member States of the European Union on pupils, students and teaching staff as well as educational attainment levels of the population; if possible, the data were disaggregated to the regional level. The focus is on data of the latest available academic year and for certain indicators such as the trend of female participation in different educational levels there are time series over a period of 20 years. The main data source is the joint UOE-questionnaire on education, and additionally the European Labour Force Survey, Eurostat's demographic database and information from EURYDICE is used.

Other international approaches in the field of educational indicators and educational reporting are hardly to find. There is a comparative study of European systems of higher education with statistical indicators promoted by the German Federal Ministry for Education, Science, Research and Development in 1994 (51) covering Germany, France,

Great Britain and the Netherlands and a continuation of this study in 1998 (52) with an enlargement by Austria, Sweden and Switzerland. The bilingual "International Yearbook of Adult Education" (53) with English and German contributions is published since 1969, providing each year several articles on a specific topic in the field of education, like education in and for Europe in 1994 health education in 1997 or the 1997 UNESCO World Conference on Adult Education in 1998 as well as various articles on specific issues - like country reports on adult education - in every volume. Furthermore, the Council of Europe is publishing the series "Guide to secondary education in Europe" (54), which is designed to present the major elements of secondary education structures and policies that exist in the European countries which joined the "Council for Cultural Co-operation" of the Council of Europe.

2.2.3 Labour and Social Protection

Within the United Nations System the **International Labour Organization**, Bureau of Statistics (ILO/STAT) is the main agency concerned with the development, collection and publication of statistics and indicators in the area of labour (1,2).

The ILO/STAT develops concepts and definitions and sets forth international standards for the collection of labour statistics which have to be endorsed by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) (3, 4). This work which is based on International Labour Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference, 1985, is crucial to the international comparability of labour statistics (5).

The ILO/STAT collects statistics on the following topics: economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, hours of work, wages, labour cost, consumer price indices, household expenditures and income, occupational injuries and diseases, trade union membership, strikes and lockouts (1). The statistics are provided by the member states (6) as well as by the "ILO October Inquiry" on wages, hours of work and food prices in about 100 countries (2, 7). They are compiled and stored in various data bases of which LABORSTA contains the main stock (2). The bulk of the statistics are published in the monthly "International Labour Review" and the quarterly "Bulletin of Labour Statistics", but the most comprehensive volume of tables is the "Yearbook of Labour Statistics" (8). Another annual publication is the world labour report which in detail discusses various special themes in each issue and contains an annex of tables related to these and other themes (9).

The most recent work on labour statistics and indicators concerns a project on "Key indicators of the Labour Market (KILM)" and various activities related to the 16th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in October 1998. The KILM project has set up a list of 18 key indicators on underemployment, employment in the informal sector, educational attainment, poverty and income distribution, wages, labour costs and productivity and has collected the data from countries around the world (10). A second objective of the project is the development of dynamic indicators of the labour market; a survey on the state-of-the art of such measures has been undertaken in about 60 countries. First results of the KILM project are expected to be published in 1999. With regard to the objective of statistics on labour market dynamics the Bureau of Statistics

made a proposal for a dynamic measure of the labour market activities of a person over a longer time period (2).

The 16th ICLS had three main topics at the agenda: the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations, the measurement of income from employment, and statistics of occupational injuries (11). Definitions and types of data necessary in order to capture the relevant information on each topic were discussed and respective resolutions were passed. The measurement of underemployment has also been addressed by some researchers of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). They consider a set of alternative unemployment measures developed by the BLS which may be conceived as different degrees of labour force underutilisation (12,13). The conventional unemployment rate only represents one of these measures; other measures include discouraged workers or persons involuntarily employed part-time.

The **OECD** provides several comprehensive volumes of statistics and indicators of the labour market and various employment topics. The "Labour Force Statistics" yearbook is annually published since 1961, containing detailed statistics on population, labour force, employment and unemployment for each OECD Member; the 1998-volume covers the time period from 1977 to 1997 (14). The OECD's "Employment Outlook" is setting up priority in the field of unemployment in OECD countries (15). This annual publication - published since 1983 - provides assessments of labour market developments and prospects in Member countries on the basis of statistical data and each volume gives a detailed analysis of a specific employment issue.

In the course of the so-called "OECD Jobs Strategy" high and persistent unemployment in OECD countries in the 1990s was analysed within several reports and reviews of the employment situation were made (16-19).

The work on economic indicators - including labour market indicators - by the OECD led to the monthly publication of the "Main Economic Indicators" (20), which is complemented since 1992 by "Short-Term Economic Indicators", a quarterly bulletin on economic indicators for Central and Eastern European countries (21).

In 1978 and again 1997, the OECD published sources and methods guides for labour and wage statistics (22, 23) to provide detailed descriptions of the methodologies used by OECD Member countries in the compilation of key labour market indicators as well as a description of different characteristics of the national statistics regarding their coverage, definition, use of standards, data collection methods, data compilation and quality aspects.

The annually volume of statistical tables on "Historical Statistics" - formerly known as "OECD Economic Outlook" - is including data on labour force issues from 1960 onwards (24).

The Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs (DG V) of the **European Commission** has prepared the annual report on "Employment in Europe" since 1989 (25), which presents the latest trends in employment and labour market as well as quantitative analyses of developments in employment and unemployment within the European Union.

Furthermore, a report on "Social Protection in Europe" is published biannually since 1993 (26) to monitor the progress achieved in the field of social protection in the European Community based on the ESSPROS (European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics) database (27) and the European Household Panel (ECHP). Data from ESSPROS are also used to prepare the annual Eurostat publication of "Social Protection Expenditure and Receipts" (28) whose first edition came out in 1990.

From the end of the 1970s to the end of the 1980s Eurostat annually published statistics on "Employment and Unemployment" (29). Since 1993 this publication comes out only three-annually, whereas indicators are selected to monitor the employment situation in the European Union (30).

In 1993 and 1995, Eurostat published a "Digest of Statistics on Social Protection in Europe" whose eight volumes are based on the ESSPROS classification by function, i.e. old age, invalidity and disability, survivors, family, sickness, maternity, unemployment, and general neediness (31).

A comparative analysis of "Minimum Wages 1997" by Eurostat provides background information on basic levels of remuneration for employees in the European Union as well as in EFTA countries, the USA, Canada and Japan (32).

The "European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions" is doing research in the field of working conditions in the European Union as an autonomous body of the European Community established in 1975. The European Foundation conducted the "First European Survey on the Work Environment" from 1991 to 1992 (33), a survey of 12.500 workers throughout 12 Member states of the European Community which provides homogenous data on the distribution of the labour force between sectors, males and females, age groups and by professional status as well as on working conditions and the work environment in the Community. The "Second European Survey on Working Conditions" in 1996 (34) was enlarged in terms of the number and width of the questions and in terms of the number of workers interviewed because of the participation of 15 European Union Member states.

In the same year, a report on the availability of appropriate data of occupational health and safety (35) - which gives an broad overview of the state-of-art of monitoring health and safety of working environments in Europe - shows a lack of comparable quantitative data in this field. Thus, more comprehensive and homogenous data on the working conditions in the Community is required, although there are two 'European Surveys on Working Conditions', on which reports on for example time constraints and autonomy (36), precarious employment and working conditions (37) and gender and working conditions (38) are based.

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions is also contributing in the conceptual and methodological development of indicators: in 1997, the report on "Indicators of Working Conditions in the European Union" (39) puts forward proposals for the construction of indicators in the field of working conditions on the basis of existing harmonised data; in the following year a study on the systematic analysis of the

problems of constructing and using quantitative indicators to monitor social policy in Europe was published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Condition (40).

To summarise the focal points of activities in the field of labour statistics of the international organisations considered here, work on concepts, definitions and methods and the compilation and publication of basic statistics and indicators is undertaken by all of them. Besides the ILO - which is presently concerned with dynamic indicators of the labour market and the measurement of underemployment - the OECD concentrated on the problem of unemployment, and the European Commission also has been engaged in statistics of social protection and working conditions.

2.2.4 Poverty and Social Exclusion

There are many contributions to poverty research on the international level, but approaches which aim to measure poverty systematically are mainly done by the United Nations respectively their related organisations and the European Union. Both are engaged in the development and improvement of appropriate poverty indicators. Only in the last few years the work on indicators to measure social exclusion is an integrated part of these efforts, but this is about to become a very important aspect of social reporting activities and social indicators research especially on the European level.

The **United Nations** and its related agencies have a long tradition of work concerning concepts, definitions and measurement of poverty. Especially the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Institute of Labour Studies (IILS) have been in charge with research in this area.

World Bank

Poverty reduction is one of the major objectives of the World Bank. In order to monitor the progress of the World Bank's poverty reduction strategies the measurement of poverty and the development of poverty indicators have been one field of work.

The World Bank's poverty concept is a multidimensional one, thus a variety of aspects are considered to be relevant. However the measurement of poverty has usually been limited to the income/consumption dimension till now. The World Development Report 1990 (p. 24ff.) proposed two consumption-based poverty measures (1). The first measure is based on an absolute poverty line which represents the expenditures necessary to meet basic needs. This measure is suitable for cross-country comparisons. The second measure sets a relative poverty line which will vary across countries. This country-specific poverty line will correspond to the country's level of development and will represent the average consumption level. It is used for poverty analysis within a country (2).

For measuring general living standards and poverty in developing countries the World Bank established the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) (3). This is a survey programme which consists of a household questionnaire collecting information on

consumption, income and savings, employment, time use, education, health and other issues, a community questionnaire on infrastructure, and a price questionnaire. Up to now surveys in about two dozen countries have been conducted (4). A newsletter called "Poverty Lines" regularly informs on results from these studies (5).

The indicators developed for monitoring the efforts of the World Bank's poverty projects were put in a conceptual framework which distinguished various kinds of indicators. First a distinction is made between poverty indices based on consumption data (headcount index, poverty gap index, squared poverty gap index) and poverty-related indicators (indicators relevant to well-being such as education, health, housing). Second, a distinction is made between input, process (or output) and impact (or outcome) indicators, whereat the different indicators are thought to form a causal chain. Data for these indicators are collected before and after the implementation of the poverty project (6).

Furthermore, the World Bank is concerned with qualitative approaches to poverty measurement, and the usefulness of supplementing quantitative information with qualitative data has been emphasised (7).

UNDP

After the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 the UNDP gave high priority to the goal of eradicating poverty. The Social Development and Poverty Elimination Division (SEPED) of UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy is responsible for work in this area which is integrated in the framework of Sustainable Human Development (8).

Poverty is conceived as a multidimensional phenomena which requires a variety of indicators to measure it. A classification framework for poverty measures was proposed which distinguished several types of indicators such as income/consumption based measures (means), social indicators (impact), process (or opportunity) indicators (enabling environment and empowerment as causes) (9). It is emphasised that UNDP places equal importance to the various dimensions as opposed to the World Bank's approach which has a focus on the income dimension (10). The concept of capability poverty is introduced which means a lack of basic capabilities in various dimensions such as health, education, security, participation. They focus on output indicators instead of means (11). In the Human Development Report (HDR) 1996 an aggregation of such indicators into a composite index - the Capability Poverty Measure (CPM) - was suggested. Starting from the CPM a Human Poverty Index was developed in the HDR 1997. Because of the limited adequacy of these measures for industrial countries another Human Poverty Index was presented in the HDR 1998 (12).

International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Institute of Labour Studies (IILS)

Besides the World Bank and the UNDP the ILO and the associated IILS are the main actors in poverty research within the United Nations system. The eradication of poverty was one of the main objectives of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995. As a contribution to meet the need for monitoring progress towards this goal the ILO published a compendium of "Statistics on Poverty and Income Distribution" (13). It contains

measures of poverty and income inequality for developing, transition and industrialised countries covering the time period of the 1970s and 1980s. In the case of industrialised countries a country-specific relative poverty concept is used respectively.

The ILO and ILS have also been concerned with work on concepts, definitions and measurement of poverty which was reviewed at a symposium on poverty in Geneva, 1993 (14, 15). The relations between poverty and alternative concepts such as deprivation, exclusion and marginalisation were also discussed there. In 1994 the ILS launched a research project on "Patterns and Causes of Social Exclusion" (16). The objective of the project was a clarifying of the meaning of the concept of social exclusion, its relationship to poverty and its relevance and applicability in developing countries. Social exclusion was defined in relation to three different paradigms of society, the paradigms of solidarity, specialisation and monopoly (17). A distinction is made between social exclusion as an attribute of individuals where it refers to a situation of multiple disadvantages and social exclusion as an attribute of societies where it refers to a lack of social integration due to institutional constraints (17, 18). Several patterns of exclusion are distinguished: exclusion from level of living, from means of livelihood, from security and from human rights (19). There is a general consensus that the concept is much broader than poverty.

Other Activities in the Framework of the United Nations System

In preparation of the World Summit for Social Development an expert meeting on social integration - one of the core issues of the Summit - took place. Several forms of social integration were distinguished and the relations to exclusion, marginalisation and poverty were discussed. Social exclusion is viewed as a potential consequence of disintegration which may occur in the economic, political or sociocultural area (23). Conceptual issues of social integration were also considered in a contribution of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (24). Furthermore, the "Report on the World Social Situation 1997" had a focus on the themes of the Social Summit and discussed various concepts and indicators of poverty and social exclusion. In this report the meaning of social exclusion is explained with reference to the notion of discrimination. Like above, a political, socio-economic and cultural dimension is distinguished (25).

The **OECD's** work in the field of poverty is limited to the relation between poverty and income. There are only few publications which measure and analyse poverty: in 1994, the paper on "Measurement of Low Incomes and Poverty in a Perspective of International Comparisons" (28) used alternative approaches to quantify concepts of 'low income' and 'poverty' explicitly for international comparisons; micro-data sets on income from the Luxembourg Income Study for 13 OECD countries were used. A comparison of income distribution in OECD countries which is mainly based on the data of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) was published in 1995 (29). The 1998 publication on "Income Distribution and Poverty in Selected OECD Countries" (30) throw light on the change in income distribution and poverty in 13 OECD countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United States) over two decades up to the first half of the 1990s.

The OECD's 'Development Assistance Committee' (DAC) is working on development co-operation between developing and industrialised countries for fostering increased

prosperity in developing countries, i.e. the main goal of these efforts are the poverty reduction. Therefore, the DAC selected a limited number of indicators to judge the success of efforts in development co-operation in the field of economic well-being, social development and environmental sustainability (31) using agreed international development goals. In 1998, a 'Working Set of Core Indicators' was adopted to measure the progress toward the development goals (32), which is the result of the collaboration of the DAC, the World Bank, the United Nations, and statisticians and policy-makers from developing countries. This working set is also used in the "World Development Indicators" published by the World Bank.

The **European Community** puts great efforts in analysing poverty within Europe. Since the middle of the 1970s there are three "Community Action Programmes to Combat Poverty" which were part of the European Social Action Programme launched in 1974. The first cross-European programme "Europe Against Poverty" endured from 1975 to 1980 (33, 34) and focused on the development of new methods to combat poverty (35-37). For the second programme "Specific Community Action Programme to Combat Poverty 1985-1989" (38, 39) aiming at the research on indicators to measure income poverty and poverty of living conditions on a common European base, Eurostat was engaged to work on long-term improvement of poverty indicators; Eurostat's 'Working Group on Poverty Indicators' was launched in 1986. Within the framework of the Second Community Action Programme to Combat Poverty the EUROPASS (European Research on Poverty and Social Security) project was funded by the European Commission and by seven European countries (Belgium, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) focusing on the development of poverty indicators for cross-national comparisons (40). One specific aim of the EUROPASS project was the incorporation of the results in a standardised system of social indicators to monitor changes in the domains of poverty and social security with a common framework for analysis (41). This project resulted in several comparative (42-44) and national analysis (45, 46) of poverty. The third anti-poverty programme of the European Community was called "Community Action Programme to Foster the Economic and Social Integration of the Least Privileged Groups" (1990-1994) within which the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) was started (47). The work of the third anti-poverty programme was considering non-monetary poverty and social exclusion, too (48).

Following the Noordwijk conference on "Poverty Statistics in the European Community" in October 1989 - organised by the Dutch Institute of Social Studies Advisory Service and the Erasmus University Rotterdam at the request of Eurostat - several studies to improve the development of non-monetary indicators of poverty and social exclusion were launched by the European Commission (49-52).

Accompanying to the developments produced by the Commission's anti-poverty programmes there were also improvements in the availability of data for cross-national comparisons: Eurostat strengthened efforts to harmonise national social statistics, for example in relation to household budget surveys and the ECHP.

The so-called "Bath Seminar" in June 1994 on "Measurement and Analysis of Social Exclusion" (53, 54) which was sponsored by Directorate General V (Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs) and the United Kingdom Department of Social

Security (DSS) was focused on the conceptualisation and the measurement of social exclusion as well as on the definition of indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of policies for combating social exclusion. As announced in the Social Action Programme for 1998-2000 (55) the Commission will examine the possibility of proposing a framework programme to combat social exclusion based on Article 137, 2 of the Treaty of Amsterdam: "The Council ... may adopt measures designed to encourage co-operation between Member States through initiatives aimed at improving knowledge, developing exchanges of information and best practices, promoting innovative approaches and evaluating experiences in order to combat social exclusion." Therefore, indicators on poverty and social exclusion at the European Union level shall be developed.

Social reporting on poverty at the international level is restricted mainly because of the problems in defining comparative relative poverty lines and in defining appropriate country-specific equivalence scales, the national differences in related policies and regulations to combat poverty, various concepts of poverty, and the lack of internationally comparable data to measure poverty comprehensively.

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) (56) of the Centre for Population, Poverty and Public Policy Studies/International Network for Studies in Technology, Environment, Alternatives, Development (CEPS/INSTEAD) (57) is providing a data bank of household income surveys for studies on poverty, income adequacy in retirement and the distribution of economic well-being. Launched in 1983, the LIS is a co-operative research project which includes 25 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Oceania. Since 1985, CEPS/INSTEAD is publishing regularly several working papers of country comparison studies using the Luxembourg Income Study each year (58), mainly on income and poverty.

For a study on the perception of poverty and social exclusion in Europe (59), Rigeaux used the Eurobarometer study on poverty and social exclusion in 1993, which was the third of this kind after 1976 and 1989.

A very comprehensive analysis which shows the extend of poverty in Europe in the 1990s and economic causes of the persistent poverty in rich countries was done by Atkinson (60).

On the measurement and concept of poverty on an international level, there are several studies in the 1990s (61-67), but beside them no efforts on especially systematic measurements in the field of poverty and social exclusion can be found outside the supranational approaches described above.

2.2.5 Health

Within the United Nations System and its related agencies the World Health Organization (WHO) is the focal point for work on health statistics and indicators. Of the international organisations considered here it can be viewed as the most important provider of indicators and statistics in the area of health.

Since 1962 the **WHO** has published the World Health Statistics Annual, a mere volume of tables containing very comprehensive and detailed statistics on death rates, causes of death and life expectancies submitted by the member states (1). Another, totally different annual publication is the World Health Report, in which an extensive discussion of various health problems and trends and information on the WHO's activities in health promotion can be found. This report also presents a wide range of statistics - partially in form of annex tables - concerning life expectancy, causes of morbidity, mortality rates, causes of death, disability, health expenditure, immunisation coverage a.o.(2). Apart from these publications data on mortality are also compiled in the WHO Mortality Database; the raw data files can be downloaded from the Internet (3).

One of the topics of the World Health Report 1995 and 1998 had been alternative measures to life expectancy. The limited significance of life expectancy measures is stressed because increased longevity is not desirable if it means an increase in time lived in bad health. Taking into account that the quality and not the quantity of years lived matters, various health expectancy measures have been proposed in recent years. The WHO in close collaboration with the World Bank developed a measure of the "global burden of disease", the disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) which combines the number of years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLL) and the number of years lived with disability from disease (YLD) (5,6,7). Similar measures have been suggested by other organisations and researchers (e.g. the OECD). Especially REVES (Réseau Espérance de Vie en Santé) an international network of researchers working on standardised international health expectancy measures may be mentioned here. The European team within this network - Euro-Reves - has the objectives of harmonisation of health expectancy indicators in Europe and of providing a European data base on health expectancies (8). Results are published in the Statistical World Yearbook on health expectancy (9). The need for such health expectancy indicators in view of an increasing life expectancy has only recently been emphasised at the joint ECE-WHO meeting on health statistics, October 1998 (10).

Since nearly twenty years the WHO's main activities in the development of health indicators have been connected with the Health for All movement. In 1977 the World Health Assembly launched the concept of Health for All as a major social goal of all member states and adopted a "Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000" in 1981. Health for All means "the attainment by all people ... of a level of health that would permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life" (11,12,13). For the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy 38 targets were formulated and a list of indicators was developed to assess progress towards the targets. The global targets can be supplemented by regional or national targets. In 1984 the Regional Committee for Europe adopted 38 specific regional targets and proposed 65 indicators for monitoring progress towards the attainment of the targets. They were updated in 1991 (14,15,16). The

targets are ordered into five interrelated groups: Fundamental requirements for better health, lifestyles conducive to health, healthy environments, appropriate health care services, and health development (17). The targets in the category 'fundamental requirements' concern health outcomes - primarily targets related to the health status as well as the goals of equity and quality of life. The targets under the headings 'healthy lifestyles', 'healthy environment' and 'appropriate health care services' are conceived as strategies to achieve the health outcomes. The political, organisational and financial structures required for the implementation of the strategies are outlined in the targets of 'health development'. Under the slogan "Health 21" the WHO Regional Committee for Europe anew updated the targets in 1998. They were reduced to "21 targets for the 21st century" (18). A European Health for All Database containing about 250 indicators related to the original 38 targets may be downloaded from the Internet (19, 20).

To realise the strategy for Health for All at the local level the WHO also launched the Healthy Cities Project (HCP) in 1987. It is conducted in more than 1000 cities around the world including more than 500 European Cities, but only a small part of them (39 cities in phase II of the project) are formally designated to belong to the European network of project cities (22). During the first phase of the project a set of 53 indicators was developed which concern health status, health services, environment, and socio-economic indicators (23). In March 1998, a revision of the indicators took place which resulted in a more concise set of 32 indicators.

The first international attempt at establishing comparative health accounts was made by the **OECD** in 1985 with the study "Measuring Health Care 1960-1983" (25), an international comparative compendium of health care financing, expenditure, utilisation and price statistics. This was followed by a comparative analysis on "Financing and Delivering Health Care" in 1987 (26) which is a cross-country comparison of health care financing and delivery trends in OECD countries using WHO's World Health Statistics, UN's Demographic Yearbook and national statistics besides OECD data. Here, the interaction of individual health status with other social, economic and environmental aspects of society is shown and the impact of changing demographic structures on health is discussed.

A systematic collation of data on key aspects of health systems in OECD countries from 1960 to 1991 was made in the two-volume publication of "OECD Health Systems" (27) containing the description of health care systems, measurement of activity and outcomes, length and quality of life, expenditures, prices and income, inputs and throughputs, variations in common medical practices, the public-private mix and social protection.

With the "OECD Health Data" in 1991 the OECD started to publish regularly comparative analysis of health systems in OECD Member countries with international comparative data on health, medical care and non-medical factors that influence health (28). The OECD health data base is providing basic data and data of the general demographic, economic and social context from 1960 onward, available on CD-ROM. The data base is permanently revised and updated and the range of the measurement of health is enlarged, e.g. in the 1998 edition efforts were made to measure the quality of life and changes in morbidity and disability patterns with indicators such as the 'disability-free life expectancy'.

At the meeting of the 'Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee at Ministerial Level on Social Policy' (23-24 June 1998) one of the main conclusion was to put greater effort to monitor and evaluate social and health policy and to develop internationally comparable social and health indicators to compare social programmes results across countries (29). It was emphasised to develop health outcome indicators to support the OECD's work in this area. Thus, the development of a framework for classifying the range of indicators which measure health outcome started in 1998 (30).

In the Maastricht Treaty 1992 in Article 129 new priorities were set for the **European Community** in the field of public health, i.e. the aim is to guarantee a high level of health protection. The Commission of the European Union suggested to report on the state of health in the European Union regularly (31): it is intended to publish annual reports on the state of health of the European Community, whereas general reports will be published every five years and in-between the annual and the general report there will be reports on specific themes relating to health. Main focus of these reports are the demographic developments and their effects on health. Up to now there are two reports, first an overview on "The State of Health in the European Community" (32) in the year 1994 with a description of the main demographic developments, statistics on mortality and morbidity and a discussion of the main determinants of health, and second a report of "The State of Women's Health in the European Community" (33) providing an overview on the state of health in the European Union as the first report, but with the specific question on the health status of women at different ages.

Furthermore, the Communication of the Commission in 1993 (31) called for the creation of Europe-wide disease surveillance and health monitoring systems with activities in the creation of European Union health indicators, the development of an European Union-wide network for the collection and exchange of information, the possibility to conduct analyses based on these elements, and the surveillance of certain communicable diseases at the European level (34). Therefore, several projects - such as Health Information Exchange and Monitoring System (HEIMS) - were established.

Because of the need of the development and exchange of adequate, reliable and comparable indicators of public health and the need for structures to exchange the relevant data, the Commission initiated the 'Action Programme on Health Monitoring for the European Community in 1995' (35) for a period of five years (1997-2001). The goals are the measurement of health, trends and health determinants at the Community level as well as enabling comparisons with non-EU countries, the facilitation of the planning, monitoring and evaluation of Community programmes and actions, and the provision of high-quality and comparative health indicators and appropriate health information for the Member countries to support and improve their health monitoring systems and to assist planning in health policies on national level.

Summing up, it may be said that all international organisations make useful contributions in the development of health indicators and the publication of health statistics and reports. The establishment of international health monitoring systems based on initiatives like the WHO's Health for All strategy or the European Commission's Programme on Health Monitoring can be considered as the most important part of their work.

2.2.6 Housing, Human Settlements, and Transport

The collection of housing and human settlement statistics and the development of indicators in this area are in the responsibility of mainly three United Nations organisations: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Statistics Division (UNSD), and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS). Furthermore, the OECD has been engaged in this field. The activities of the UNO and the OECD during the last few years were concentrated on the development of social indicators especially suited for catching the living conditions specific to urban respectively rural areas. On the domain 'transport' only very few activities in reporting and social indicators research can be found. The United Nations are the sole international organisation which published transports statistics in recent years.

The **ECE** is working on statistical standards for housing censuses and sample surveys conducted in the ECE region which were last specified in the "Programme of Current Housing and Building Statistics for Countries in the UN/ECE Region" (1). In order to improve international comparability a list of statistics together with concepts, definitions and classifications was proposed which the countries are recommended to compile by sample surveys. They concern statistics on the dwelling stock, dwellings completed, the conditions of the dwelling stock, costs and prices as well as the housing conditions of the population. In their efforts for harmonisation of housing statistics in the European region the ECE is collaborating with UNSD and Eurostat (2, 3). Statistics of the kind listed above are annually published by the ECE based on questionnaires submitted to the countries (4).

The **UNSD** and the **UNCHS** also compile data by means of the Human Settlement Statistics Questionnaire sent to national statistical offices in 1992 (5). On this foundation a Statistical Database on Housing and Human Settlements (DATAHOUSE) was developed which was also made available through the Internet (6). Furthermore, the "Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics 1995" is based on these data. In this volume of tables for 243 countries or areas statistics on population, land use, housing, infrastructure and services, and crime are presented for the country as a whole, urban and rural areas, and some large cities (5). The Human Settlement Statistics Questionnaire was revised in 1995; a new edition of the Compendium and a second version of DATAHOUSE is planned for 1999 (7).

In 1994, in the framework of the preparations of the Habitat II Conference in 1996, the **UNCHS** (Habitat) Indicators Programme was launched which built on the former joint UNCHS/World Bank Housing Indicators Programme from 1988 (8, 9). The objective of the new programme was the development of a set of urban indicators for monitoring the progress towards sustainability in cities according to the Habitat Agenda and Agenda 21. A list of 46 key indicators was set up which were collected by 236 cities (including 34 European cities) from 108 countries by the end of 1996. After 1996, the indicators system was revised and the Programme was continued under the title "Urban Indicators Programme (UIP)" as a part of the Global Urban Observatory. The indicators system consists of 40 key urban indicators classified into 6 modules and 9 background indicators. The modules cover socio-economic indicators, infrastructure, transport, environment, local government, and housing. In addition to the indicators a City Development Index (CDI) was proposed on the analogy to the Human Development Index of the UNDP. Its

components are city product, infrastructure, environmental management, health, and education (9).

Within the **OECD's** Rural Development Programme, which was launched in 1991, the 'Project on Rural Indicators' and the 'Project on Rural Employment Indicators' were started. The OECD developed a multi-national set of rural indicators to describe the demographic, economic, social and environmental dimensions of rural development in a consistent analytical framework (10). The basic set of rural indicators is covering the areas of population and migration, economic structure and performance, social well-being and equity, environment and sustainability. The report on the results of the 'Project on Rural Employment Indicators' (11) is concentrated on labour market and employment issues, taking into account territorial diversity and disparities explicitly and can be seen as a study on regional labour markets in the OECD countries. The 'Project on Rural Employment Indicators' is contributing on the up-dating and up-grading of the basic set of rural indicators, therefore a number of key rural employment indicators has been identified and calculated.

In 1997, the OECD published a report (12) containing the review of common interpretations, definitions and uses of urban indicators. This report contains the synthesis of the presentations made during a conference on urban indicators which was organised by the OECD, WHO, European Community and the city of Rennes, France in 1995. This was the first formal occasion for the exchange of information and experience between civic authorities, national agencies and international organisations in the field of urban indicators.

The area of transport plays a minor part in the statistical work of most of the **United Nations** Organizations and its related agencies. Transport statistics are published in the UN Statistical Yearbook and the World Bank's World Development Indicators, but only the Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) is concerned with this topic more intensively.

The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of the UN/ECE Transport Division has a Working Party on Transport Statistics which co-operates with EC/Eurostat and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) in the methodological development and harmonisation of transport statistics in the European Region. In collecting transport statistics from the member states they use a joint questionnaire developed by an Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics. The long-term objective of their co-operation is the development of a European Transport Database System (TDS) based on the common questionnaire (13, 14).

The Transport Division is publishing two annual publications. The first is the "Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America" which is a mere volume of tables without any comments. The tables provide data on railway transport (network, equipment, passenger and goods transport), road transport (length of roads, vehicles, km), inland waterways, maritime transport, intermodal transport, and oil pipeline transport (15). Most of the statistics presented can be viewed as raw data and have not the character of indicators.

The second publication is the "Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America". Its scope is restricted to road accidents involving personal injury. The tables give information on the number of accidents, the number of persons injured and the number of persons killed by time and location of occurrence, kind of accident, category of road user, age group, and influence of alcohol (16). As above, together with appropriate background data the statistics may be used as raw material for the construction of indicators.

The urban and rural indicators programmes of the UNCHS and the OECD of course cover interesting aspects with regard to the contents as well as to the methodologies. But like the work on transport statistics they can be viewed as of minor relevance to a project of developing a European system of social indicators.

2.2.7 Environment and Sustainability

Great efforts are made in social reporting and indicators research in the field of environment and sustainability in the last 10 to 15 years, whereas systems of sustainability indicators are rather new approaches, whose improvement and completion is an ongoing process in the next years.

The well-known Brundtland-Report "Our Common Future" from 1987 - initiated by the World Commission on Environment and Development - reviews social, economic, cultural, and environmental issues and problems, and made the term "sustainable development" popular. Relating only on environmental issues first, meanwhile the term sustainable development includes economic and social aspects as well.

Since the **United Nations** Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the topics of environment and sustainability have gained increasing importance in the social reporting activities of national as well as international organisations and the work connected therewith. Within the United Nations System there are several organisations and agencies which are engaged in this field.

The objective of the UNCED (Earth Summit) was the search for ways of societal development which would reconcile economic as well as environmental and social requirements. A set of fundamental principles of future development - the Rio Declaration - and a programme of concrete goals for the 21st century - the agenda 21 - were adopted (1). In December 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was created for monitoring progress towards the goals of agenda 21 (2).

Agenda 21 consists of 40 chapters which refer to four areas of sustainable development: the social, economic, environmental and institutional area. Within each area several dimensions may be distinguished each of which is represented by one chapter. Chapter 40 calls for the development of indicators for monitoring sustainability. Thus, the CSD prepared a work programme on indicators of sustainable development which included a preliminary set of 134 indicators generated in co-operation with a large number of other organisations both within and outside the United Nations. The work programme was

adopted in 1995 (3). For each indicator a methodology sheet was worked out and in 21 countries a testing phase took place. Participating countries from Europe include Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, France and the Czech Republic (4). The tests resulted in revisions of the indicators and the methodology sheets. The long-term objective of the work programme is to arrive at a good and workable list of indicators by the year 2000.

The indicators are ordered into an analytical framework which is conceptualised in analogies to the Pressure-State-Response (PSR) framework originally developed by the OECD for environmental indicators. Instead of the term "pressure" the more general term "driving forces" is used in order to be more suitable for the broader scope of indicators covering not only environmental but also social, economic and institutional aspects (3, 4). "Driving Force indicators represent human activities, processes and patterns that impact on sustainable development, State indicators indicate the "state" of sustainable development, and response indicators indicate policy options and other responses to changes in the state of sustainable development" (5, p. vii). Thus, the total result is an arrangement of the indicators in a cross-classification of the four subject-matters and the three types of DSR (5, 6). No assumptions about the relations between the various types of indicators are made.

In 1997, the Earth Summit +5 took place, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly designed to assess progress made in implementation of Agenda 21. At this session the progress of most European as well as other countries was described within a common format - the country profiles - by means of indicators related to each of the chapters of Agenda 21 (7).

Chapter 40 of agenda 21 calls not only for the development of indicators but also for an improved co-ordination of the activities of the various organisations and institutions of the United Nations System related to the monitoring of progress towards sustainable development. In order to meet this requirement various efforts have been undertaken. First, a so-called "Development Watch" has been established (8). Second, the work in the framework of "Earthwatch", an already existing UNO-wide information system for the environment, has been intensified (9). Third, a system of shared access to the data bases of the UNO was created and made available on a UN System-wide "Sustainable Development Website". This first coherent information system across all relevant UN data bases provides international data on indicators of sustainable development for the social, economic, environmental and institutional realm by means of a comfortable search facility (10).

The work programme of the CSD also aims at the long-term objective to investigate the interlinkages between the indicators of sustainability and to develop highly aggregated indicators for sustainable development. In 1994 the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) launched a new project, in co-operation with UNEP, in order to support the CSD in this work (11).

The DSR framework chosen by the CSD explicitly made no assumptions on relations between the DSR dimensions. Contrary to that, in a report commissioned by the UNEP a conceptual framework for environmental indicators has been proposed which is similar to the OECD's PSR model and explicitly conceives the relations between the three

dimensions as a causal chain. Furthermore, this report gives an overview on national and international approaches to develop sectoral environmental indices as well as a single composite measure (12).

In 1997 the UNEP published a new comprehensive report on the state of the global environment - the Global Environment Outlook (GEO). This report which is planned to be published every two years is the result of a close co-operation of a network of regional Collaborating Centres, UNO, and working groups of experts from around the world. For the various regions of the world the major environmental concerns and problems, underlying social, economic, environmental and institutional causes, and policy responses are discussed (13). The report refers to international data sources and to regional and national State of Environment reports which have partially been produced with support from UNEP (14).

A further comprehensive global environment report - World Resources - is a joint publication of the World Resources Institute, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the World Bank. This biennial report has a focus on a special theme, describes the state of various environmental problems and discusses economic, demographic and social trends which are crucial to the environment, and provides a lot of data tables for about 150 countries. The last report focuses on the negative impact of certain environmental developments on human health (15).

This subject of health effects of the environment is also handled by the HEADLAMP (Health and Environment Analysis for Decision-making) project which was initiated in 1993 as a collaborative enterprise of WHO, UNEP and USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency). In connection with this project a conceptual framework for the development of environmental health indicators - the DPSEEA framework - was worked out. It is an extension of the OECD's PSR framework and distinguishes 6 causally linked components: driving forces, pressures on the environment, state of the environment, exposure to environment, effects on health, and actions of the society due to these effects. An illustrative set of environmental health indicators in the context of this framework was proposed (16). The WHO as the leading agency in this project applied this framework to an analysis on "Health and Environment in Sustainable Development" (17).

Also the World Bank is conceived with the subject of sustainable development. The work of the World Bank has been on the one side on a conceptual level. The meaning of the term has been explained and the theoretical interrelations between its economic, environmental and social components have been discussed (18,19). Especially the completion between economic growth and environmental protection are emphasised and ways to reconcile economic, environmental and social concerns are outlined (18). On the other side the World Bank has also been engaged in work on indicators of sustainable development (20, 21). The strengths and weaknesses of available indicators for various environmental sectors were investigated and a provisional framework for sustainability indicators - a "sustainability matrix" - similar to the CSD's approach and the OECD's PSR framework was proposed (21). Furthermore, an approach to "greening" national accounts and an effort to measure the total national wealth - covering produced assets, natural resources, and human capital - was presented (21, 22). The inclusion of a fourth component of wealth, social capital, its conceptualisation and measurement were considered (22).

The United Nations Statistics Division is a further body within the UNO which has developed a Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). It shows strong analogies to the PSR model, too, but a different terminology is used and no causal relations between the dimensions are assumed. The framework distinguishes between components of the environment - flora, fauna, atmosphere, water, land/soil, human settlements - and so called information categories which correspond to economic and social activities, environmental impacts of activities, responses to environmental impacts, and stocks and inventories (23). In continuation of this work in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the Advancement of Environment Statistics a manual on concepts and methods of environmental indicators is in preparation and a compilation of international environment indicators is currently carried out (24).

The Social Indicators Programme of the **OECD** (see 2.1.1) included the physical environment as an important area of the main concerns of quality of life. Therefore, the Urban Environmental Indicators project (1974-1976) proposed a basic set of indicators describing the quality of the urban environment (27). Beside environmental conditions and nuisances the focus of the Urban Environmental Indicators Set was on housing, community services and employment.

In 1979, the Environment Committee of the OECD recommended that the Member countries should improve information on environmental matters and that the OECD should work towards a core set of comparable environmental information for OECD Member countries, that is the development of environmental indicators and periodic reports on the state of the environment in OECD Member countries. The first OECD report in 1979 at the international level about "The state of the Environment in OECD Member Countries" (28) reviews the pressures on environment by human activities and the state of the environment, and analyses the responses of the public, governments, international organisations and industry following the so-called 'Pressure-State-Response' model. The second and the third state of the environment report - published in 1985 and 1991 - examine the progress made in OECD countries in the field of environmental performance (29, 30); in 1991 the report was extended by analysing the pressures on the environment from socio-economic changes and drawing conclusions relating to sustainable development.

Since 1985, the Compendium of Environmental Data (31) - then the first of this kind on international level - accompanies the OECD Report on the State of the Environment containing international data on pollution, natural resources and environmental management. This compendium is a regular OECD publication up-dated every second year (31) and is also structured along the 'Pressure-State-Response' framework, aiming at the presentation of the best internationally available data on environment and related areas. This data compendium is supplementing the "OECD Environmental Performance Reviews" since 1993 (32). These reports on the national environmental performances in the context of society, economy and nation are making efforts to promote sustainable development in OECD Member countries. The OECD Environmental Performance Review Programme - launched in 1992 - is conducting four reviews on the environmental conditions and progress in Member states every year, the countries are expected to be reviewed every four or five years. In 1996, the - by then - 12 Environmental Performance Reviews were beside other international environmental data the basis for the report on

"Environmental Performance in OECD Countries. Progress in the 90s" (33) which provides environmental information and indicators for developments and trends in the field of environment during the 1990s for all of the OECD Member countries.

The OECD Work Programme on Environmental Indicators has led to the development of sets of indicators since the beginning of the 90s: the Preliminary Set (34) as well as the "Core Set of Environmental Indicators" (35) deal with the development of a core set of indicators to be used in environmental performance reviews of OECD countries, whereas "Environmental Indicators. A Core Set" (36) can be seen as component for the environmental aspects of sustainable development indicators. In 1998, the OECD published a follow-up named "Towards Sustainable Development - Environmental Indicators" (37) including major environmental indicators from the OECD Core Set as well as selected environment related socio-economic and sectoral indicators. The 1997 publication "Sustainable Development. OECD Policy Approaches for the 21st Century" (38) is the OECD contribution to Agenda 21 with an integrated approach to economic, environmental, social, and development co-operation issues by using indicators of sustainable development.

The future work of the OECD in the field of sustainability will be at the creation of sustainable development indicators; a first set of indicators for common use in the Member countries should be published by the end of 1999 (39, 40).

The **European Community** is launching environmental action programmes since 1973. The 5th Environmental Action Programme (1993-2000) under the title "Towards Sustainability" (44) differs from the previous programmes: it sets longer-term objectives and focuses on a more global approach. The features of sustainability in the 5th Environmental Action Programme are to maintain the overall quality of life and the continuing access to natural resources, to avoid lasting environmental damage and to consider sustainable development. Therefore, the 5th Environmental Action Programme represents a starting point for the implementation of the Agenda 21 on the European level.

In 1995, the European Environment Agency (EEA) in co-operation with Eurostat prepared a report to review the 5th Environmental Action Programme (45). The EEA was launched by the European Union in 1993 to provide efficient information at the European level in form of reliable and objective reports about the present state of the environment and the effectiveness of current environmental measures. The EEA's assessment of the state of the environment in the European Union in 1995 (45) was requested by the European Commission as part of the review process of the 5th Environmental Action Programme and it is based on indicators to show the progress and prospects of the current actions in the field of environment, whereas the selection of indicators was mainly determined by the key issues of the 5th Environmental Action Programme. Much of this report was based on the EEA's report "Europe's Environment: The Dobris Assessment" (46) which was prepared by the EC Task Force for the EEA in co-operation with the UN/ECE, UNEP, OECD, Council of Europe, WHO, IUCN and Eurostat together with individual countries of Europe. It is a very detailed and comprehensive review of the state of the environment in Europe including EFTA countries, Switzerland, and Central and Eastern European countries. The second pan-European assessment (47) was published in 1998 which is up-dating the Dobris Assessment and reviewing the progress made since then.

For the Dobris Assessment as well as for the Second Assessment of Europe's environment statistical compendia were prepared by Eurostat to provide detailed statistics on the environmental policy fields presented in both of the reports (48, 49).

Another Eurostat's publication of a set of regular and official statistics is called "Environment Statistics" which was published in 1990, 1992 and 1997 (50, 51, 52). This regular publication of environmental statistics will be developed further in terms of comparable and harmonised data.

In the recent years Eurostat is also participating in the development of sustainable indicators: in 1997, a pilot study was published (53) representing a first contribution to the sustainable indicator testing phase recommended by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD); this study is presenting more than 40 of the CSD sustainable indicators applied to the European Union.

Furthermore, the "Environmental Pressure Indices Project" - conducted by Eurostat in close co-operation with DG XI (Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection) and the EEA - will develop a first set of 60 pressure indicators for the 15 Member States of the European Union which should enable the description of harmful human activities in a comprehensive, systematic and comparable way; this is supposed to be the foundation for the construction of pressure indices (54).

Within the 5th Environmental Action Programme (44) the urban dimension of sustainability is also considered, therefore the report on "European Sustainable Cities" (55) is focusing on the development of sustainable cities where the need for urban sustainability indicators was pointed out.

In 1998, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions created a common framework of urban sustainability indicators for cities in Europe (56) based on the 'Charter of European Sustainable Cities and Towns' signed at HABITAT II (May 1994), the first conference on European Sustainable Cities and Towns.

Outside the supranational organisations there are few other international reports on the environment and sustainable development.

The yearly report of the World Watch Institute on environment and sustainability (59) on a global level - published since 1984 - is focused on the progress made toward a sustainable society. The impacts of expanding economy on the world's natural resources (like forests, water, soils, fisheries etc.) are described in detail. Different data sources - such as data collected by FAO, USAD or WIR - are used to show trends and developments back to the 1950s respectively the 1960s.

In 1995, the Friends of the Earth Europe published a report on sustainable development in all European countries, which was prepared by the German Wuppertal Institute (60). The aim of this report was to provide basic information and a broad basis for national and Europe-wide debates on environmentally sustainable economic development. The

resources, population, consumption, transport, economy, labour and the quality of life are the fields covered.

The "Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development" - which was formerly known as "Green Globe Yearbook" - is published since 1991 by The Fridthof Nansen Institute in Norway. This yearbook is an annual review and reference work on international co-operation on environment and development aiming at the demonstration of the international community's position on specific environment and development problems and it assesses the achievements and the shortcomings of international co-operation (in the form of international agreements on environmental issues).

Since the strengthening of the discussion on sustainable development, there are great efforts to develop appropriate measures. With the creation of the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW) the economic approach to measure the well-being of a society was combined with ecological concerns (61, 62). The aim of the ISEW is to provide an appropriate welfare index, because of the fact, that the usually used GNP is not a sufficient measure for economic welfare anymore. The ISEW's main components are the income distribution, the net capital growth, foreign and domestic capital, the natural resource depletion, environmental damage, the value of leisure and the value of unpaid household labour. There are different approaches on the subject of developing sustainability indicators (63-72) published in the 1990s, but no comprehensive set of sustainable development indicators outside the supranational organisations can be found on the international level so far.

On the world-wide web there is a huge offer on sustainable development sites. A very useful site for social indicators research is provided by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Canada. This institute is promoting sustainable development in decision-making internationally as well as in Canada. The IISD's "Measurement and Indicators Program" (73) is working on a coherent framework for selecting measurable dimensions and quantifiable indicators for sustainable development and has compiled information about the successful uses of taxes and subsidies to encourage sustainability in various countries of North America and Europe. The overall goal of this programme is to propose measurement techniques and guidance for the selection, reporting and using of indicators sets considering economic and social indicators beside environmental indicators. Furthermore, the IISD is providing a comprehensive and up-to-date information base of indicator initiatives on the international, national and provincial, territorial and state levels in the context of sustainable development on-line (74). This "Compendium of Sustainable Development" also contains an annotated bibliography of indicator-related literature in the field of sustainable development.

Selected internet links on sustainability indicators are provided by the Millenium Institute (75) as well as by the Environmental Agency of the German government (76).

2.2.8 Crime

Social reporting concerning 'crime' is still less developed, only the **United Nations** are engaged in two main activities concerning crime statistics (1). First the UN Crime

Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (CPCJD), located at Vienna, is working on the UN Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of the Criminal Justice Systems together with the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Rome. Secondly, UNICRI is part of an International Working Group, together with the Ministry of Justice for the Netherlands and the UK Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate, which has developed and conducted the International Crime (Victim) Survey (2).

The UN Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of the Criminal Justice Systems was launched in 1974; a questionnaire was prepared and sent to all UN Member States. Till now, five surveys have been conducted with an increasing number of participating Member States (3). The data collected concern reported crimes by type of crime, apprehended, suspected, prosecuted and convicted persons, prison population, sentence lengths, personnel and financial resources of criminal justice agencies. The publication of the results is made in a rather problem-oriented manner including many hints on problems of international comparability due to differences of laws, legal structures, definitions, classifications systems, resources, recording practices and so on (4). The data of all surveys are available by the Internet (5).

In view of the above mentioned difficulties to make cross-national comparisons of crime data recorded by the police the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands launched the International Crime Survey in 1989. A second and a third wave took place in 1992 and 1996, now with the involvement of UNICRI (6). The last survey was conducted in 11 industrialised countries, 14 developing countries and 20 countries in transition with a sample of 1000 to 2000 respondents respectively (2). The questionnaire provides information on victimisation for various types of crime, whether they were reported to the police and the reasons for not reporting, the satisfaction with the police, fears of crime, security at home and other issues (7).

2.2.9 Special Population Groups

One characteristic of social reporting in the 1990s is the increasing concern not only with single life domains but also with special population groups. This trend can also be observed at the international level. In the following we describe some activities in social indicators research and social reporting related to the groups of women, elderly people, children, disabled, and migrants and foreigners.

2.2.9.1 Women and Gender Inequality

In the development and compilation of statistics and indicators the UNO has paid much and growing attention to the situation of women and issues of gender inequality during the last years. Even in 1982 as a result of the discussions in various conferences and commissions a joint project of the UN Statistical Office and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was initiated in order to develop indicators on the status of women and equality between sexes from existing data sources. Illustrative indicators were proposed for several areas of concern: role of women

in families and households, education, economic activity and employment, health, income and social security, political power (1).

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) has compiled the Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (WISTAT) which contains gender-specific indicators or indicators disaggregated by sex on 63 topics arranged into 9 subject categories for over 200 countries (2). They concern population, education, economic activity, household, housing conditions and human settlements, health, participation, and crime and cover the period from 1970 to 1994. Mainly based on this database two social reports on the living conditions of women as compared to men have been published. They analyse and discuss problems and trends of gender inequalities in the areas of household and family, education, health, employment, public life and participation and provide a set of tables on each topic (3, 4). The report from 1995 also served as an official document for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995) which identified various critical areas of gender inequalities and called for the integration of a gender perspective in all statistical fields (5).

Likewise an ECE meeting for preparing the Beijing Conference stressed the disadvantageous situation of women in a wide range of domains and emphasised the need "to develop more gender-specific statistical systems, data and gender research" (6). In accordance with that the UN/ECE commissioned a social report on equality between women and men in various life domains (7). Statistics Sweden - with financial support from INSTRAW and Eurostat - prepared a questionnaire, collected data from the ECE countries, set up a database and produced the report. The questionnaire contained 57 statistics and indicators and was fully completed by 43 ECE countries. As in the reports of the UNSD mentioned above the aspect of gender inequalities is mainly captured through the disaggregation of data by sex.

A more elaborate approach to measure gender differences in living conditions has been pursued in the Human Development Reports of the UNDP: Since 1991 a gender-sensitive Human Development Index (HDI) has been computed and in 1995 the Gender-Related Development Index (GDI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) were introduced. The GDI adjusts the HDI for female-male disparities in its dimensions (longevity, education, income) while the GEM concerns gender inequalities in economic, political and professional participation (8).

Furthermore, the UNESCO made some propositions for indicators of gender inequality in the field of education in order to monitor progress towards goals adopted at the Beijing Conference as well as at the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien 1990). The suggested measures include a gender parity index, a relative gender gap, and an index of gender segregation (9). Also for the area of employment gender segregation measures have been developed. In the framework of the ILO's Interdepartmental Project on Equality for Women in Employment several measures of occupational gender segregation currently in use were examined and a new measure - Marginal Matching (MM) - was proposed and explained (10). A special database (SEGREGAT) was created which contains detailed occupational data by sex from about 40 countries. These data can be used for the computation of segregation indices (11).

The situation of women and issues of gender equality are also addressed by some reports from **Eurostat**. The report "Women in the European Community" (13) on the social situation of women at the beginning of the 1990s contributes to the discussion of gender inequality and provides a basis for equal opportunity policies. The focus is on the employment and unemployment of women, but additionally data on demography, household structure, social protection, child care, education and vocational education are available. Special attention is given to the economically inactive women and to women living abroad, and the occupational distribution of women at work within the Community is analysed in detail.

The report "Unemployed Women in the EC" (14) by Eurostat is showing the profile of the personal, household and social characteristics of unemployed women using data from the European Labour Force Survey (LFS), mainly of the year 1989. This report gives a general overview of the situation of employed and unemployed women in the European Community, examines the circumstances of unemployment for particular groups of women, presents an in-depth analysis of the effects of household and family life on the employment situation of women, and shows work histories of unemployed women.

The first of the yearly reports in the field of equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union (15) came out in 1996 providing an overview on ongoing activities and current questions in this field and shows the progress made in relation to the objectives of the "Fourth Action Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (1996-2000)". The following 1997 report contains the improvements of policies for inclusion on European and national level, labour market trends, improvements in the compatibility of family and occupation, improvements of equal opportunities in decision-making processes, new policy instruments to improve equal opportunities and actions following the commitments of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1997 (16).

2.2.9.2 Elderly People

The population group of elderly people has been of rather little interest in the framework of activities in social indicators research and social reporting at the supranational level. Of the organisations considered here only the **United Nations** have been active in this field. In 1993 a special issue of the Demographic Yearbook was published which focuses on population ageing and the situation of elderly persons. It deals with changes in age structure, mortality trends and causes of deaths, disability, living arrangements, and economic characteristics of the elderly. Statistics and indicators are presented for countries from all over the world collected by a Special Questionnaire on Ageing (1).

Besides this work the Population Activities Unit (PAU) of the ECE launched a major project on "The Status of Older Persons in ECE Countries: Economic Conditions, Living Arrangements, and Gender" in 1992. The objective of the project is to collect and investigate comparable micro-data for persons aged 50 or older based on the 1990 census data of ECE countries. The statistics and indicators cover the topics of living arrangements (private households), living in institutions, work and retirement, housing conditions, income, and disabilities (2). In collaboration with the United States National Institute on Ageing the PAU is working on a second project related to older people which is a "Survey

of Ageing Research in the ECE Region" (3). Results are published in comprehensive reports on ageing research projects in Europe (4).

2.2.9.3 Children

Within the United Nations System **UNICEF** is the only organisation especially concerned with improvements of the living situation of children. In recent years the development and monitoring of social indicators related to the living conditions of children was closely connected to the goals adopted at the World Summit for Children in 1990. These goals refer to issues of mortality, infectious diseases, immunisation, nutrition deficiencies, pregnancy, sanitation, and education to be achieved by the year 2000. The plan of action also included the commitment to measure progress towards these goals and to publish the results (1).

UNICEF is editing two major periodical reports both containing tables with indicators related to the targets of the Summit for countries from all regions of the World. Since 1993 the Progress of Nations has been annually published with an explicit destination of monitoring the achievement of the goals. Each chapter of a volume discusses the problems associated with a special goal area and describes the main results in various countries. There are further chapters on subjects which are outside the scope of the Summit: For example, one chapter deals with selected social problems in industrialised countries taking into account the rather minor relevance of many goals of the Summit for developed countries. At the end of each volume a table with some indicators for all countries is presented (2). The second report from UNICEF is the State of the World's Children annually published since 1979. This report has a focus on a special theme each year and a rather large part with tables charting progress towards the Summit's goals (3).

The monitoring of the welfare of children and families in Central and Eastern Europe is the objective of the MONEE project of UNICEF's International Child Development Centre launched in 1992 (4). The project has compiled a database with about 120 economic and social indicators for 27 countries of Central and Eastern Europe - the TransMONEE database. The indicators cover the domains of population, reproductive behaviour, family stability, mortality, morbidity, education, crime, employment and income (5). Based on this database a Regional Monitoring Report with a focus on a special topic and a description of welfare trends in the various domains is annually edited (6).

Beside the work of UNICEF there are no contributions of other international organisations to social reporting on children.

2.2.9.4 Disabled

The measurement of disability has been an objective of mainly two **UN** organisations, the WHO and the Statistics Division.

In 1980 the WHO proposed a conceptual model and a classification scheme for the measurement of disability - the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities,

and Handicaps (ICIDH). The ICIDH is based on a model which distinguishes three levels of consequences associated with health conditions: at the level of the body there are impairments which lead - at the level of the person - to disabilities (activity limitations) and further - at the level of the society - to handicaps, that is reduced possibilities of participation. In 1997 the ICIDH was revised and the three dimensions considered were now denominated as impairments, activities and participation (1).

The ICIDH is an important tool for the harmonisation of international disability statistics and has been used by the UNSD in the compilation of data on disability for 55 countries in the Disability Statistics Database (DISTAT) and a corresponding compendium (2). It describes demographic and socio-economic characteristics of disabled persons as well as services and special aids used by them.

Statistical compendiums on disabled persons have also been published by **Eurostat**. Up to now there are two volumes on disabled persons in the European Union (3) with data from social security authorities mainly, but also data from the United Nations, WHO and Council of Europe are used covering the population of disabled persons by age group, degree, type and origin of disability, the employment and unemployment of disabled persons, and the non-active disabled persons.

2.2.9.5 Migrants and Foreigners

The problems of international migration and the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and other foreigners have received rather great attention in social reporting activities of various **UN** organisations as well as OECD and Eurostat. There is a collaboration between Eurostat, the UN/ECE and the UN Statistics Division in the development and revision of concepts and definitions of migration statistics and the use of a joint questionnaire (1-3).

Several programmes of the United Nations are concerned with the monitoring of migration. First of all, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is publishing an annual report on refugees and asylum seekers (4). This report discusses main trends, data sources, quality of the data and methodological problems in counting refugees. It contains tables on the number, arrivals and departures of refugees by country of origin and asylum, on demographic characteristics of the refugee population, on asylum applications and recognised asylum seekers by country of origin and asylum. Secondly, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) published a research report on "Migration and Population Change in Europe" (5). This report reviews the main demographic trends in the various European countries and deals with problems of migration and asylum seeking as well as policy responses. The tables cover data on stocks of foreign population, migration flows, asylum seekers and other. Third, in 1996 the PAU of the UN/ECE launched a project on "International Migration and Development in the ECE Region". This project compiles and analyses data on trends and patterns of international migration in the UN/ECE region. Results are semi-annually published in the "International Migration Bulletin" (6). The data are partly provided by UNHCR, partly they are directly collected by the ECE.

Beside these compilations of statistics the ILO has undertaken detailed methodological work in the context of a project on migrant workers. Various concepts underlying international migration statistics and problems of cross-national comparability were discussed. A comprehensive framework for the identification and classification of international migrants was proposed and the existing data sources are reviewed with respect to their ability to cover the suggested categorisation (7).

For the **OECD** countries, the report "Migration. The Demographic Aspects" (8) from 1991 shows the links between migration and demographic growth. This report contains the demographic impact of post-war migration in selected OECD countries, the evolution of fertility of foreigners and nationals, official population projects and simulations of demographic objectives and migrations.

Since 1992, annual reports on international migration (9) with descriptions of general trends in international migration and recent changes in migratory movements and policies by country using different data bases (e.g. the European Labour Force Survey and other Eurostat data, United Nations' data, and data of national statistical institutes) are produced by the OECD. Each year, there is a special theme on a migration issue of interest - such as the temporary employment of foreigners in the 1998-edition.

Additionally to this annual migration report the OECD published a statistical compendium on international migration in 1997 (10) using time-series data from the OECD's International Migration Statistics Database (1997) on migration flows for most OECD countries by country of origin, main demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the total population of the OECD countries by nationality and country of birth with breakdowns such as sex, age group, region, length of stay and educational level, i.e. this compendium provides key demographic and economic indicators for both receiving and sending country.

Eurostat is publishing the yearly "Migration Statistics" since 1994 (11-13), with data on the main topics on international migration. The 1997-edition contains historical data series on migration from the middle of the 1980s to the middle of the 1990s, as well as data on the population (by citizenship, non-nationals, age-group, etc.), migration (i.e. immigration, emigration and net migration) and employment for the year 1994. Data sources are on the one hand the joint statistical questionnaire of the ECE, Eurostat and UN Statistical Division which was sent to all European Union and EFTA countries and on the other hand the Eurostat questionnaire on non-national workers in the European Union Member states.

A second publication from Eurostat in the field of migration was published in 1994, entitled "Asylum-seekers and Refugees" (14). This statistical report reviews the existing data on asylum-seekers and refugees from Eurostat and other data sources and provides an analysis of the comparability of existing data sources on asylum-seekers and refugees in Europe.

In 1998, the Siena Group Report on "Monitoring Multicultural Societies" was published (15). The Siena Group - founded in 1993 on the initiative of ISTAT (National Statistics Institute of Italy), Statistics Norway, Statistics Sweden and Eurostat as an informal association of representatives of statistical offices and research units for developing and co-

ordinating international work in the field of social statistics - encouraged this monitoring report at the fourth Siena Group Seminar "On the way to a multicultural society?" (June 1997 in Switzerland), which provides synthetic country analyses for Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland.

The various population groups are partially considered in comprehensive social reports, too. Also in the comprehensive social reports of the international organisations women and issues of gender inequality and the problems of international migration and foreign people are subject matters which are given greater space than other population groups. The rather low attention attached to the elderly population is difficult to understand because in view of population ageing as a general trend in industrialised countries the monitoring of the living situation of old people has to be viewed as an important objective which should also be pursued at the supranational level in greater detail.

2.3 Summary

During the last 10 to 15 years social indicators research and social reporting has shifted from a rather comprehensive approach including all life domains relevant to social policy to rather specific approaches focusing on particular domains or special population groups. This trend can also be identified with respect to research activities at the supranational level. Although a lot of social reports covering all important welfare components and aspects of social change have been published, there have been few scientific efforts to develop an international comprehensive system of social indicators. The most recent, but rather pragmatic effort is Eurostat's Social Indicators Project (1995-1997). Within the United Nations System the last major work in this area consists of the subject-matter fields and illustrative indicators suggested in the Handbook of Social Indicators published in 1989. The OECD's List of Social Indicators dates from 1982.

The concentration of research on special life domains or population groups not only resulted in an extensive social reporting on the corresponding subjects but is also reflected in efforts to develop domain- or group-specific systems of social indicators. The most successful and best known propositions have been made in the areas of education, health and environment/sustainability. In the area of education the OECD's system of International Education Indicators published in 1992 may be mentioned, furthermore UNESCO's conceptual framework for World Education Indicators. In the area of health the most important impetus was given by the WHO's "Strategy for Health for All", which led to the construction of a system of indicators, regularly monitoring in the member states and a continuous revision and updating of the indicators. The most extensive work on indicators can be stated for the topics of environment and sustainability where a unifying approach can be observed: The system of indicators set up by the CSD as well as the approaches of other UN organisations and of Eurostat are all related to the PSR framework originally proposed by the OECD for environmental indicators in 1979.

As a general problem of international social reporting the cross-national comparability has to be mentioned. Despite of existing international standards for concepts, definitions, classifications and the collection of statistics cross-national comparability is still limited. Therefore, the work of Eurostat concerning data harmonisation at the European level will be extremely useful for establishing a system of social reporting for Europe.

3. National Approaches of Social Indicators Research and Social Reporting

Since the beginning of the 1970s social reporting activities spread out in Europe with a starting point in the North European Countries (United Kingdom, Scandinavian Countries) and most of the West European Countries. A further diffusion to the South and East European countries took place markedly later; for most of these countries social reports have been published only during the 1990s (1).

At the time being some kind of social reporting can be stated in nearly every country but there are great differences concerning quality, intensity, regularity and actors involved. As to the kind of social reporting four main approaches may be distinguished (2):

1. Level of Living Research
2. Quality of Life Research
3. Living Conditions Approach
4. Living Standard Research

The level of living research is the Scandinavian kind of social reporting and is based on a resource concept of welfare (s. chapter 1). The availability of resources which determine the living conditions of individuals is put in the centre of interest. They are measured by objective or descriptive indicators which rely to several components of welfare. Comprehensive level of living surveys belong to the main data sources of this kind of social reporting.

Welfare surveys are an even more important tool for quality of life research. This kind of social reporting is done by Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, and Switzerland (3). Individual welfare is conceived as the constellation of objective living conditions and subjective well-being. Therefore, social reporting also relies on subjective welfare indicators which can only be gathered by surveys.

The living conditions approach is most widespread in Europe. Various West and South European countries are following this type of social reporting, for example Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. Social reports are structured by life domains and welfare components and they are mainly based on official data and include survey data, too. There is a strong focus on objective data. Thus, at first view there are similarities with the level of living approach of the Nordic countries, but the essential difference is the lack of an underlying theoretical concept which guides the collection of data and the structure of the social report (4).

The fourth kind of social reporting is typical for the East European countries in transition. The focus of research is on basic standard of living measured by objective indicators (5).

Of course, this is a rather rough classification of social reporting and within each category there are exceptions from the general characteristics as well as considerable variations in the quality, the quantity and the continuity of social reporting. Nevertheless, this typology will be used for the following overview on social reporting activities in European countries. For the level of living and quality of life research as well as for the living conditions approach the main comprehensive social reports of the various countries are

listed in synoptic tables (tables 2-4) which characterise the reports with respect to various aspects such as regularity of occurrence, topics considered and quality of presentation and explanation.

3.1 Level of Living Research in the Nordic Countries

In the **Nordic Countries** social reporting is mainly the responsibility of the National Statistical Offices. They carry through comprehensive surveys on living conditions - in part together with social research institutes - and regularly publish the results. This high degree of institutionalisation ensures the continuity and comparability of social reporting across time. The main functions of social reporting are the provision of an information base for social policy and the enlightenment of the public (6).

In the Nordic countries the central population registers are an important data source for social reporting. Each person has an identification number through which data from different administrative registers can be connected. Besides, comprehensive level of living surveys constitute an essential data base for social reports. The first welfare survey was carried through in Sweden in 1968, later on the other Scandinavian countries started comparable surveys: Norway in 1973, Denmark in 1976, Finland in 1978, and finally Iceland in 1988.

The Nordic Council aims at the harmonisation of social reporting. In 1984 a first common social report for the Nordic countries appeared (7). Since the 1980s the Nordic Committee for Surveys on Living Conditions (NUUL) has co-ordinated the level of living surveys in the Nordic countries every 3 or 5 years. A second common social report published in 1991 was based on identical surveys carried through in Sweden, Norway, and Finland in 1986/1987, the Icelandic survey from 1988, and various surveys conducted in Denmark (8). Prior to these efforts, as early as 1972 the Comparative Scandinavian Welfare Survey had been conducted by Erik Allardt (9). However this survey was based on a different welfare concept and included subjective indicators, too (see chapter 1).

The common social reports are very similar in content and structure. They provide a description of the level of living and inequality in the Nordic Countries. Based on the OECD Social Indicators Programme they analyse a broad range of topics and welfare components: Education, employment and working conditions, economic resources and consumption, housing and residential environment, social relations and participation, leisure, health, personal safety, social mobility (1984), inequality in material living conditions, gender inequality (1984). The relatively strong consideration of issues of inequality is a common characteristic of Scandinavian welfare research. This is true with respect to class differences, but rather high emphasis is put on questions of gender inequality, too. Thus in 1995, as a joint project of the Nordic statistical offices commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers, a social report on the situation of women and men and problems of equal opportunities in the Nordic countries was published (10). This report presents in a descriptive and illustrative way information on gender inequalities in lifestyle and health, time use, power and influence, family caring activities, education, employment, and income for all five Scandinavian countries.

Beside common social reporting activities the Nordic countries have of course published social reports which only concern their respective countries. In **Sweden** apart from the statistical office the Swedish Institute for Social Research has been active in this field. It was involved in the conduction of the first Level of Living Survey in 1968 which was replicated in 1974, 1981 and 1991 (11). Since 1974, Statistics Sweden annually carries through a survey on living conditions (ULF = Undersökningarna av levnadsförhållanden) by order of the Swedish Parliament. The surveys capture living conditions for the following domains: health, financial situation, employment and working hours, working environment, education, transport and communication, leisure time, housing, political resources, social relationships, security and safety (12). The results are published in the Living Conditions Report Series. The volumes of this series are mostly designated to specific life domains, topics or population groups, but also some comprehensive social reports have been edited.

The most recent comprehensive social report published in 1997 describes and analyses the development of living conditions and welfare in Sweden during the last twenty years (13). Apart from the annual Living Conditions Surveys various other statistics compiled by Statistics Sweden as well as data from international organisations - primarily Eurostat's ECHP for European comparisons - are used as data sources. In an introduction the concept of welfare measurement and social reporting underlying the ULF surveys is explained. The structure of the report follows a life domain concept; the domains covered by the ULF surveys (s. above) are handled under four main headings: work and leisure, material living conditions, social relations, health and care. Furthermore the topics of social inequality (material, regional, generational, ethnic), actual welfare problems and the changing welfare state are discussed. The most important indicators of the various domains are listed in large synoptic tables disaggregated by a wide range of social characteristics. In total, this is a very impressive social report because of the richness of the material, the detailed and elaborated analysis, and the social problem oriented perspective. A similar social report for Sweden had already been published in 1988 which analysed living conditions and inequality in a 10-years perspective from 1975 to 1985 (14).

Prior to these volumes a living conditions report - Perspectives on Swedish Welfare - had been edited in 1982 and updated in 1987 (15). The two reports even cover a time period of up to 40 years. Again various components of welfare are distinguished. For each domain a rather crude international comparison is made, and the past and actual government policies and public expenditure, level and development of living conditions, and differences between population groups are explained. Contrary to the reports from 1988 and 1997 mentioned above information on public efforts and expenditure is considered, too. However in total, these volumes are far less detailed and extensive in the presentation, description and analysis of the data than the more recent social reports.

Furthermore, as in a comparative perspective for all the Nordic countries a statistical compendium on the living conditions of women and men in Sweden was published in 1998 (16).

In **Norway** the compilation of statistics, the conduction of social surveys and the publication of social reports are primarily undertaken by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Since 1973 Statistics Norway (17) has conducted Level of Living Surveys every few years (1973-74, 1980, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995). In 1996 Statistics Norway started an integrated

system of surveys ("Surveys of Living Conditions") which comprises a cross-sectional survey and a panel study each year. The content of the cross-sectional survey is changing within a 3-year period. Based on the Level of Living Surveys respectively the Surveys on Living Conditions the report series "Sosialt Utsyn" (Social Outlook) and "Levekarsundersokelsen" (Survey of Level of Living) have been edited. Furthermore, "Ukens statistikk", a weekly bulletin of statistics, and the quarterly journal "Samfunnsspeilet" regularly publish selected results of the living conditions survey (18).

In 1993 "Sosialt Utsyn" appeared for the 6th time since 1974 (19). This is a rather large volume of about 450 pages, for which an English summary exists, too. The report describes the development of living conditions during the 1980s and early 1990s in ten areas. With the exception of "housing" and "social security" all important life domains are covered. The results are based on a broad range of official statistics and survey data and are presented in a very detailed manner. The most recent edition of Sosialt Utsyn appeared in 1998, but only in Norwegian language.

In 1993 another social report was published by the Government Commission (NOU) (20). This report also considers domains and topics not included in "Sosialt Utsyn". In particular there are chapters on the living conditions of special population groups and on inequality (gender, generational, regional, socio-economic) of living conditions.

Since 1980 Statistics Norway has published the "Levekarsundersokelsen" (Survey of Level of Living), which describes results of the respective survey (21). The most recent volume in this series relying on the survey of 1995 appeared in 1996. This report describes the living conditions with respect to the following domains and topics: wage and material goods, employment, physical working environment, organisational working conditions and psychic stress, housework and care for sick, disabled, elderly persons and children at home, education, health, housing, leisure, social relations and participation, violence and security. For each domain substantial indicators as well as summarising indices for special topics were developed and presented in a double-page sized table systematically disaggregated by sex, age, region, residential area, family cycle phases, socio-economic groups and particular vulnerable groups such as receivers of social care, long-term unemployed, and disabled persons. Furthermore, there are special chapters devoted to the living situation of children respectively to changes of living conditions between 1980 and 1995. The most important figures are commented by a short descriptive text only, thus a detailed analysis and discussion of results is not provided.

A recent comprehensive social report with an integrated perspective of gender equality was published in 1998 (22). The report presents rich material on living conditions of women and men in twelve areas and discusses equal opportunity policies in Norway and the efforts reached hitherto. The domains considered are population, families and households, social contact and participation, child and elderly care, health, education, time use, employment, working environment, income, power and influence, violence and crime.

In **Finland** the statistical system is rather decentralised; about two thirds of official statistics are compiled by Statistics Finland (23), the rest is provided by government agencies. Besides, there are private research organisations like the Centre for Finnish

Business and Policy Studies (EVA = Elinkeinoelämän Valtuuskunta) which conducts surveys and compiles data on the Finnish Society.

A first survey on living conditions was conducted in 1978, a second and third survey took place in 1986/87 and in 1994. Prior to the conduction of the first level of living survey, in 1977 Statistics Finland published a social report under the title "Living Conditions 1950-1975". A second issue of this report appeared in 1984 which was based on the living conditions survey 1978 as well as some other surveys, data from ministries, administrations and organisations (24). The time period covered goes back to the 1960s. The report informs on welfare developments and social changes in all important domains. Compared to other reports of the Nordic countries which neglect the area of environment, this report presents a rather extensive list of indicators of the state of environment. International comparisons, particularly with other Nordic Countries are undertaken, too.

In 1989, Statistics Finland started a series on "Living Conditions" with two volumes per year on a special topic. A comprehensive social report was not published within this series till now; therefore at present no actual report is available which would provide a complete analysis of the living situation in Finland. However a social report on the living conditions of women and men was published in 1995 (25). Although its main purpose is to describe the degree of equality between sexes in Finland an overview on the general situation in various life domains is given as a by-product. Furthermore, a quarterly bulletin with articles on living conditions and well-being is edited (26).

The private research Centre for Finnish Business and Policy Studies (EVA) was founded in 1974 and is funded by business organisations in Finland (27). Contrary to the official statistics, the EVA puts one focus of research on values and attitudes of the Finns which have regularly been monitored through opinion surveys and published in corresponding reports since the mid-1980s. The most recent report of this kind informs on the developments of attitudes and opinions concerning Finland's international position (EU, Nato, Finnish identity), assessments of the future, unemployment, economic growth and environment, technologies, gender equality, political alienation (28). A second regular report of the EVA is "Indicators of the Finnish Society", a very concise compilation of mainly economic indicators and a few social and environmental indicators presented in an European perspective (29).

In **Denmark** the Statistical Office (30) together with the Danish National Institute of Social Research (31) are publishing the series "Levevilkår i Danmark" (Living Conditions in Denmark) about every four years. It represents the only comprehensive social report in Denmark. Since 1976 six volumes have been edited, the last one in 1997 (32). The main data sources of these reports are administrative registers, ministries and national institutes, furthermore the Danish Welfare Surveys conducted in 1976 and 1986 and various other surveys. The time period covered by the most recent report are the 1970s to the mid-1990s, some time series go back even further. The various life domains and population groups considered are treated in a systematic and very detailed manner. On the first page each chapter provides an overview on the tables and figures, followed by a text describing the results, a list of data sources and relevant publications. As to data from surveys the formulation of the question is presented below the table. In total, this is a very impressive

social report because of the richness and wide coverage of information including a variety of aspects of living conditions.

3.2 Quality of Life Research

Social reporting in the framework of quality of life research is oriented on a welfare concept which considers the satisfaction of needs as an essential welfare component. Therefore, subjective indicators - evaluations of special aspects of the living situation and assessments of overall well-being - have to be integrated in the scope of social reporting. This requires a data source which contains information not only on the level of living but also on the perceived quality of life.

The **Netherlands** can be viewed as the first European country introducing a survey of this type, apart from Allardt's Scandinavian Welfare Survey. Since 1974 about every three years Statistics Netherlands (CBS = Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek) has carried through the "Leefsituatie"-survey which combines objective and subjective aspects across various life domains (1). The results of the surveys are published in a special series, the most recent issue appeared in 1996 under the title "De leefsituatie van de nederlandse bevolking" (2). This report provides a rather short textual description of the results and a larger tables part covering the following domains and aspects: leisure and social participation, residential environment, health, social relations, satisfaction, quality of working life. All indicators are disaggregated by sex, age, and education level. Furthermore time series starting with the year of the first survey are provided.

The data of the "Leefsituatie"-survey are also used in the most important Dutch social report - the Social and Cultural Report of the SCP (Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau). The SCP is an inter-ministry national institute with the objective to submit a social report as an information base for social policy (3). Thus, the Netherlands have a strongly institutionalised system of social reporting. Since 1974 the Social and Cultural Report has been edited every four years till 1996. In 1998 the most recent volume appeared (4).

The report consists of two main parts: Part one deals with seven areas of welfare which - according to the function of the report - correspond to areas of government policy. The areas are studied under a common perspective which is changing from edition to edition; for example in the report of 1996 the conditions in the large towns ("the big city") were in the centre of interest, the report of 1992 put the focus of the analyses on socio-economic differences ("inequality and deprivation"), the central theme of the most recent report is "25 years of social change". The policy areas considered are the same in each volume: Health and health care; employment; social security; housing; education; leisure; the media and cultural affairs; justice and criminal procedure. However the various aspects and components investigated within each domain may differ between editions. Part two of each report is devoted to two intersectoral themes, for example "Cultural Changes" and "Participation" in the report of 1996. Furthermore, the findings of the overarching central theme are summarised in an own chapter.

The report also contains selected international comparisons based on data from LIS, OECD and Eurostat. The national data are from a wide range of sources including beside the

Living Conditions Survey many other surveys and official data from CBS and ministries. The time series presented go back to the 1980s and partially to the 1970s, too. The disaggregations of the data vary with the topic, however sometimes they are missed. Altogether, the report provides very elaborated analyses of the respective topics which go far beyond a plain description and interpretation of results. This is true with respect to the methods which include multivariate analyses, the plenty of data from different surveys with a thematic range and continuity really impressive, and the emphasis put on policy issues.

Compared to the situation in the Netherlands social reporting in **Germany** is characterised by a rather low degree of institutionalisation and centralisation (5). There are many actors of social reporting, e.g. the Federal Statistical Office, the statistical offices of the States and communities, the ministries, and scientific research projects and institutions. The latter have played a major role so far, since the most important impetus to scientific social reporting was given by the SPES project - under the direction of Wolfgang Zapf - and continued and further developed in the framework of the Sonderforschungsbereich 3 (Sfb 3 = Special Research Unit 3) of the German Science Foundation, the Social Indicators Department at ZUMA, and the Social Reporting Department at the Social Science Research Centre Berlin.

During the middle of the 1970s a comprehensive system of social indicators was developed by the SPES project and a social report based on this system was published in 1977 (6). This was the first science-based system of social indicators in Germany and probably the first national indicators system in Europe. The approach of the SPES project was to select 10 life domains which are considered as relevant to welfare. For every life domain a catalogue of goal dimensions was developed on the base of an empirical analysis of the goals included in programmatic statements of governments, political parties, trade unions, employer associations, churches, in codes of law and in other official documents. For each of these dimensions indicators were constructed which should measure the degree of goal attainment and social change. In the next step time series starting in 1950 at the earliest were compiled which are mainly based on official data.

The SPES indicators system claims to represent dimensions and indicators which are crucial to individual welfare and which rely to goals finding high societal agreement. The domains and policy areas considered in the social report from 1977 are population, social change and mobility, labour market and employment conditions, income and income distribution, expenditure and supply, transport, housing, health, education, participation. For each domain the procedure of developing dimensions and indicators is explained and the results are described and discussed. A tabulation of all goal areas, dimensions, indicators, data sources and disaggregations made is provided at the beginning of the report.

Since 1987 the indicators system has been continuously updated and enlarged by the Social Indicators Department at ZUMA, Mannheim (7). Due to the establishment of the Welfare Survey since 1978 in the framework of the Sfb 3 and various other micro data bases like the Allbus (General Social Survey) and the SOEP (Socio-Economic Panel) the perspective of welfare measurement could be enlarged by the inclusion of subjective indicators and the analysis of connections between various welfare dimensions on the individual level. Especially the Welfare Survey as an instrument of a regular and systematic measurement of

objective living conditions and subjective quality of life across all relevant life domains can be considered as an important milestone in promoting scientific social reporting in Germany (8).

The SPES social indicators system was extended not only by subjective welfare indicators but also by the addition of other life domains. In 1993, a tables volume was published which included the domains of environment and public safety and crime, apart from the original 10 areas (9). Later on, indicators for a further domain - leisure and media consumption - were added and the time series were complemented by data of the New Federal States of Eastern Germany. Besides, there is a regular revision and actualisation of the dimensions and benchmarks of indicators. At present the indicators system represents 13 life domains with more than 300 indicators and 1000 time series disaggregated by various social characteristics relevant to the respective topic. The indicators system is currently being made available on-line (10). It is also available as a PC-software called "DISI" (Digital Information System Social Indicators) (11).

Since 1983 the most important social report regularly published has been the "Datenreport". The first volume was edited by the Federal Statistical Office and exclusively based on official data (12). Since 1985 the report has been produced in co-operation with scientific institutions - with the Sfb 3 in 1985, 1987, and 1989 and with the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB = Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung) and the Social Indicators Department at ZUMA in 1992, 1994 and 1997 (13). These reports consist of two parts: Part one of the Federal Statistical Office describes living conditions in various life domains on the basis of official data. Part two of the scientific institutions is also structured by life domains supplemented by comprehensive topics and chapters on special population groups. This part analyses subjective welfare components and their relation to objective living conditions on the basis of survey data - especially the Welfare Survey, the Allbus and the SOEP. The reports inform on the developments in all important life domains, aspects of the individual living situation and structural characteristics of the society. In the last reports the comparison between West and East Germany and trends of equalisation have been in the centre of interest. While part one of the report presents the results on a mere descriptive level, part two also includes complex analyses of relationships. In total, it can be viewed as a useful social report which meets its objective to provide an information base for social policy and for the interested public. But the bipartition of the report prevents that the numerous details of information on a domain could be analysed in their context in order to get a really comprehensive view on it, as it is the case for example in the Dutch Social and Cultural Report.

Besides the "Datenreport" there are a number of reports on specific domains or populations groups as well as social reports at the regional or local level which can be regarded as a general trend in social reporting (14). Furthermore, a social indicators newsletter called ISI is published two times a year by the Social Indicators Department at ZUMA. It presents short articles on subjects in the field of social indicators research, information on new social reports and relevant events (15).

As part of an international project on "Comparative Charting of Social Change" national reports on social change in the respective countries are provided in an uniform way in order to enable cross-national comparisons (16). The "Recent Social Trends in Germany

Table 3: Selected National Social Reports in the Quality of Life Research Tradition

Country	Editor	Titel	first publ.	periodicity	last publ.	topics							
						population	household/ families	women/ gender inequality	older people	children/ youth	migration/ foreigners	education	
Netherlands	Social and Cultural Planning Office (SCP)	Social and Cultural Report	1974	4 years	1998								x
	Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS)	De leefsituatie van de Nederlandse bevolking	1975	?	1997								
Germany	Zapf, W. (ed.)	Lebensbedingungen in der Bundesrepublik. Sozialer Wandel und Wohlfahrtsentwicklung	1977		1977	x	x					x	x
	Noll, H.-H./ Wiegand, E.	System Sozialer Indikatoren für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Zeitreihen 1950-1991	1993		1993	x	x					x	x
	Statistisches Bundesamt	Datenreport 1997	1983	2-3 Years	1997	x	x					x	x
	Kurz-Scherf, I.; Winkler, G.	Sozialreport 1994	1990	about 2 years	1998	x	x					x	x
	Glatzer et al.	Recent Social Trends in the Federal Republic of Germany 1960-1990 (CCSC-Series)	1992			x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Austria	ÖSTAT(Österr. Stat. Zentralamt)	Indikatoren zur gesellschaftlichen Entwicklung	1976		1979	x							x
	ÖSTAT (Österr. Stat. Zentralamt)	Sozialstatistische Daten	1977	4-5 years	1990	x	x		x	x			x
	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Gesundheit und Soziales	Bericht über die soziale Lage	1967	yearly since 1980	1999								
Switzerland	Bundesamt für Statistik	Sozialindikatoren für die Schweiz (8 of 12 volumes published)	1981/82										x

1960-1990" describe - like the other volumes in this series - trends concerning 78 topics which are grouped under 17 thematic units. Each trend report contains an abstract of findings, an explanatory descriptive text, tables and charts, and a bibliography of the sources. The time series cover a period of at least 10 years (17).

In the New Federal States of East Germany a scientific approach to social reporting has been pursued, too (18). As early as 1990 a social report was published which was the result of research of scientists of the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy of the Academy of Sciences. This report already used data of the first survey on social well-being and objective living situations representative for East Germany (19).

In 1991, the Social Science Research Centre (SFZ = Sozialwissenschaftliches Forschungszentrum) was founded which focuses on the analysis of the development of living conditions, subjective evaluations, and opinions in the New Federal States. To monitor these social changes the SFZ has yearly conducted a survey called "Leben in den neuen Bundesländern" (Living in the New Federal States) and regularly published the results in a social report. The report deals with the living situation in various domains: labour market and education, income and consumption, housing, environment, health, family, participation (20). For each domain the developments of objective and many subjective indicators since 1990 are analysed based on the survey mentioned above but also on other empirical investigations as well as official data. Furthermore, some demographic aspects and global assessments of the living situation in East Germany are handled. The results are described in a rather extensive way including many interpretations and evaluations for which an empirical foundation is missing.

Besides this comprehensive social report a report on the living situation of citizens aged 50 years and older has been published by the SFZ every two years since 1990 (21). The volumes are based on a special survey on this population group which was conducted in 1998 for the fifth time. Furthermore, since 1993 a quarterly journal has been edited which presents results of various surveys and a synoptical table with selected social indicators of population, employment, income, housing, education, health, environment based on official data (22). Thus, a regular social reporting system could be established in East Germany.

In **Austria**, there is no comprehensive social report which is published on a regular basis as yet. In the 1970s, the Austrian Central Office for Statistics (ÖSTAT) made two attempts to describe the social situation of Austria with statistical indicators (23, 24). A preliminary set of indicators for nine life domains has been developed by orientating on the social indicators activities of the UN and the OECD. This set of indicators can not be seen as some kind of system of social indicators because the selection of indicators was strongly dependent on available data, i.e. the theoretical background is missing. Time series are provided for the beginning of the 1960s to 1974 (23) respectively 1977 (24) for the domains of population, health, education, employment and labour market, information and culture, material welfare, quality of housing and settlements, social security and welfare, and personal safety and justice. A comprehensive picture on the social situation in Austria could not be provided.

In 1977, ÖSTAT started to publish the "Sozialstatistische Daten" (Social Statistics Data) (25), the most important publication on the quality of life in Austria for the 1980s. Every four to five years this official social report (25-28) was published, the fourth and last edition dates from 1990. Each edition of the "Sozialstatistische Daten" was continuously enlarged, but structured in the same way with chapters on population, household and families, education, employment and labour market, income and material wealth, social security, social issues concerning specific population groups (e.g. youth, elderly, disabled), housing, infrastructure and environment, crime, time use, leisure and culture. The time series cover mainly the last five to ten years and only official data sources are used. The statistical tables and graphs are presented in connection with descriptive and explanatory text, whereas the used indicators are described in detail and the observed trends and developments are explained.

Another official actor - the Federal Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Affairs - produces a very detailed report on the social situation in terms of prosperity (labour, income, poverty etc.) since 1967 (29), which is published annually since 1980. From 1992 onward a statistical compendium is published which supplements the more descriptive and analytical "Bericht über die soziale Lage" (Report on the Social Situation). This report on the social situation in Austria is not providing a comprehensive picture of Austria's social trends and developments, but it is focused on labour market issues, poverty and social policies.

In 1998, an attempt was made to develop an indicator system that provides all important information on the socio-economic situation of families in Austria (30). The list of indicators consisting of seven main parts (family characteristics, public transfers, monetary indicators, time use, household equipment, financial situation and other issues like social contacts and participation) was set up not only considering the availability of appropriate data sources but also by relating on theoretical concepts. Beside this methodological part information on family policies and on the socio-economic situation of the Austrian families is provided using the Family Barometer 1993 and 1996.

Social reporting activities in **Switzerland** started in the 1980s with the work on social indicators (31). The Federal Office of Switzerland (Bundesamt für Statistik, BFS) developed a social indicators system with 130 indicators for 12 life domains (Health, Education, Employment, Working Conditions, Leisure, Income, Housing, Transport, Environment, Family and Social Environment, Citizen and State, and Energy) relating to the OECD List of Social Indicators. Official as well as non-official data sources were used to monitor the quality of life in Switzerland, thus subjective indicators like attitudes and values had been included, too. Because of financial problems only 8 out of the 12 volumes - which represent the 12 selected life domains - have been published (31) and these efforts to develop a social indicators system for Switzerland have been discontinued by 1982.

About ten years later, a second approach to improve social reporting in Switzerland started. After the BFS-publication of an expert report in 1994 (32) providing recommendations for the development of a social reporting system for Switzerland relating to the international state-of-the-art of social reporting, several social reports on specific fields were produced, for example on gender inequality (33) or social inequalities (34).

With the activities on the Swiss Household Panel (35, 36) starting in 1998, social reporting in Switzerland gets a new impetus, because one of the aims of the Swiss Household Panel is to provide data for social reporting.

The Swiss National Science Foundation's 'Priority Programme Switzerland Towards the Future' - which is supporting the Swiss Household Panel - will publish a Social Report for Switzerland from 1999 onward, the first comprehensive social report for Switzerland on a regular basis.

3.3 Living Conditions Approach

There is a variety of social reporting activities in Europe which are characterised by a living conditions approach. It concerns long established social reports like the British Social Trends or the French *Données Sociales* as well as more recent efforts in South European countries.

One of the countries with a rather late start in social reporting is **Luxembourg**. Not until 1997 a social report was published which is the result of a collaboration between CEPS/INSTEAD, the national statistical institute STATEC (1) and IGSS (Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale). The research activities of CEPS/INSTEAD (Centre d'Études de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Économiques/International Networks for Studies in Technology, Environment, Alternatives, Development) can be considered as an important step in promoting social reporting in Luxembourg (2). Besides the well-known projects at the international level (LIS, LES, PACO) this centre for socio-economic research conducts various studies on the national level. Since 1985 the PSELL (Panel Socio-Économiques 'Liewen zu Letzebuerg') - a panel survey on living conditions in Luxembourg - has been carried through which is one of the main instruments for social reporting in Luxembourg.

The first social report for Luxembourg - *Recueil D'Études Sociales 1996* - represents a compilation of studies on various topics allocated to seven domains (3): population (demography, young people, women, foreigners, homelessness), education, employment and unemployment, income, life style and household budgets (equipment of households, consumption, expenditure), housing, social policy (family, old people). The time period covered is the mid-1990s, time comparisons or series mostly go back to the mid-1980s. Besides the PSELL various other surveys of CEPS/INSTEAD and STATEC, official data and administrative registers are used as data sources. The report does not provide a comprehensive description of living conditions because important domains like health, crime/public safety, or leisure/culture are missing. Instead the focus is on a scientific investigation of special topics and problems with a rather ambitious presentation of results partially based on multivariate analyses.

As a further activity in the field of social reporting the three collaborating institutes introduced two newsletters in 1994 respectively 1995. The bulletin "Population et Emploi" informs on demographic trends and matters of employment (4); the bulletin "Conditions de Vie des Ménages" reports on income, consumption and housing based on the "Enquête

Budgets des Ménages", the survey "Niveau de Vie et Logement", the PSELL and other surveys (5).

In the neighbouring country **Belgium** the situation with respect to social reporting is described as rather difficult (6). There is a strongly decentralised statistical system and although the National Institute of Statistics (INS) (7) is publishing the largest part of social statistics a comprehensive social report has not been produced till now. However, there are some research centres which have been engaged in sectoral social reporting activities, especially the C.B.G.S. (Centrum voor Bevolkings- en Gezinsstudien = Population and Family Study Centre) and the CSB (Centrum voor Sociaal Beleid = Centre for Social Policy).

The C.B.G.S. initiated together with Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) the series "European Studies of Population" (8). Within this series the yearbook "Population and Families in the Low Countries" is published which contains selected articles on demographic and social issues for Belgium as well as for the Netherlands. Furthermore the journal "Bevolking en Gezin" (Population and Family) is edited three times a year (9).

The CSB belongs to the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Antwerp (U.F.S.I.A.). The objective of the Centre is the collection and analysis of data for the evaluation of social policies with respect to its impact on subsistence security, poverty, and income distribution (10). Various surveys have been conducted between 1976 and 1992. Furthermore a Belgian Socio-Economic Panel ("Répartition des Revenues, Sécurité Sociale et Pauvreté") was initiated in 1985 and continued in 1988, 1992, and 1996. It enables the investigation of the dynamics of poverty. Results have been published in a report which describes the development of indicators of income, income inequality and poverty (11).

Compared to the situation in Luxembourg and Belgium there exists a well proved system of social reporting in **France**. The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Institut Nationale de la Statistique et des Études Économiques = INSEE) is the central actor in social reporting (12). Since 1973 INSEE has published the main social report for France, the "Données Sociales", since 1980 within the division "Études sociales" established in INSEE. Besides INSEE, various research institutions are engaged in the production of the Données Sociales, for example the CRÉDOC (Centre de Recherche pour l'Études et l'Observation des Conditions de Vie) which conducts a survey on "Living Conditions and Aspirations" commissioned by economic, social, or political actors two times a year (13). Another social report - "France, Portrait Social" - was published by INSEE in 1997 the first time.

The "Données Sociales" (14) show the same gross structure in every edition. There are 10 chapters representing different life domains most of which are contained in every edition: population, education, labour market, working conditions, health, family, income and assets, consumption, social protection, poverty, social relations, crime, housing and living environment. Each chapter consists of several mostly short articles devoted to a special topic of the respective theme. These topics may differ from edition to edition. The time series presented in the recent reports mostly start at the 1980s, but often go back to the

1970s, 1960s or even further. The report is based on census data, administrative register, statistics of public institutions and organisations, international organisations, and surveys on various themes conducted by INSEE, CREDOC, various state institutions and ministries. Apart from few exceptions no data on subjective evaluations, well-being, values or attitudes were included. Besides output indicators of individual welfare input indicators of the performance of state/institutional actors in various domains are also implicitly considered.

In general, the various topics are handled in a rather concise and descriptive way but there are also many contributions on special issues with a more analytical character and an extensive discussion of results. These disparities may also be explained by the differing backgrounds of the authors belonging to INSEE, statistics divisions of ministries, research institutions and universities.

In 1997, a new social report was published by INSEE which aims to inform the interested public as well as decision-makers (15). The report contains three parts: Part one gives an overview on important social and economic facts and developments in the 1990s; they concern the areas of employment and unemployment, education, wages and work conflicts, income, consumption, personal safety, population, social security. Part two contains three dossiers: on health expenditures, one-parent-families, and a comparison between the British and the French society during the last 25 years. Part 3 consists of so-called "fiches thématiques" which are brief outlines of special topics. Each topic is presented on a double page which contains tables and graphs on the right side and a short text and definitions of indicators on the left side. Partially the time series presented go back to the 1970s. In total, more than 20 topics are handled which cover a wide range of domains and also include some international comparisons.

The most central social report for the **United Kingdom** is "Social Trends" (16) published yearly since 1970 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The "Social Trends" are comprehensive reports on the social situation in Britain, the 1999-edition covers 13 life domains: population, households and families, education and training, labour market, income and wealth, expenditure, health, social protection, crime and justice, housing, environment, transport and life-styles. Although this report is rather descriptive than analytic, "Social Trends" is very comprehensive, clearly structured and it provides an up-to-date picture of the British society. The chapter on a special focus - which is yearly included in "Social Trends" since 1984 - contains, however, a detailed analysis of a specific issue like the change of life styles of elderly people, types of families and households, AIDS or drugs. Only few subjective indicators are used and the indicators are mainly based on official data, whereas governmental actions and benefits in single life domains as well as economic data have a high priority in "Social Trends". This is due to the fact, that "Social Trends" are official reports, which are not produced as scientific analyses of social trends and developments.

Another official information about the structure and organisation of Great Britain is the ONS' publication of "Britain: An Official Handbook" (17), which is published annually since 1954. This is not mainly a social report, but also an economic and political description of Britain. The chapters which describe the demography, government, administration, external and economic affairs, environment and cultural affairs (like health,

social security, education or religion) provide an up-to-date overview on the social, political and economic situation in Britain by using some official data to supplement the descriptions.

The ONS' "Key Data. UK Social and Business Statistics" (18) - a short compilation of the most important cross-sectional statistics published in 1990 for the first time - contains statistics on population, labour market, income, crime and justice, environment, transport, life-styles, education, health, housing and European Union-wide comparisons beside economic and agricultural data. This is an easy-to-read report on the social and economic situation in Britain designed to provide basic information on the topics covered. At the beginning of each chapter a short introduction is given, but nevertheless this annual publication is not more than a compilation of selected statistics.

In **Ireland**, there is no comprehensive and regular social report as yet and the conduction of social surveys or quality of life studies is also missing so far. The Central Statistical Office of Ireland (CSO) is collecting social statistics, but regularly up-dated data on the social situation in Ireland can only be found in the CSO's yearbook (19) in the fields of population, labour, housing, education, justice, transport and communication.

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) which is the main national research institute for the economic and social sciences is covering a broad range of topics including economic forecasting and modelling, public finance, the labour market, social exclusion, the environment, education and health (20). The ESRI also conducts surveys on special aspects of living conditions of the population in Ireland, but a comprehensive report is not produced.

There are only two sociological studies, which can be seen as some kind of social report for Ireland: "Ireland. A Sociological Profile" published 1986 (21) and "Irish Society: Sociological Perspectives" from 1995 (22), both edited by the Irish Institute of Public Administration. These studies are researching the key issues in the Irish society relating to the social, demographic and economic structure - i.e. work and employment, stratification and class, education, religion, marriage and family, gender inequality, unemployment, crime, labour, culture or environment - for the time period 1950-1980 (21) respectively 1950-1990 (22). For analysing the trends and developments in Irish society official as well as non-official data sources were used, but only objective statistical indicators were included.

The situation of social reporting in **Italy** has been described as rather fragmented (23, 24). The main actors of social reporting are the National Institute of Statistics (Istituto Centrale di Statistica = ISTAT), CENSIS (Centro Studi Investimenti Sociali) and EURISPES (Istituto di Studi Politici Economici e Sociali). ISTAT started with the production of various social reports in the 1970s, but there is no established social report with a longer tradition like the French "Données Sociales" or the British "Social Trends". This may also be due to the strong decentralisation of Italian statistics (25). The social reporting activities of private research foundations, CENSIS (26) and EURISPES (27), are characterised by a greater uniformity and continuity.

Since the end of the 1980s ISTAT has regularly published social reports differing in titles, starting with the "Immagini della società italiana" in 1988 (28) which is a common product of ISTAT and the Italian Sociological Association (AIS). The report written by researchers of the academic field consists of nine thematic domains: Population, territory and housing, family and social networks, education, labour, health, culture and recreation, justice, income and consumption. Within each domain there are several chapters which are designated to specific aspects of the general theme. The selection of the domains and topics handled was mainly guided by the availability of data from ISTAT, other data sources have been hardly used. The data presented are partially raw statistics, also containing absolute figures which have not the character of indicators. Subjective data are scarcely considered, some surveys conducted by ISTAT include a few evaluative questions. The time period covered often starts at the middle of the century or even at the beginning and reaches until the mid-1980s.

The report from 1988 served as a starting point for the production of a similar volume on "Sintesi della Vita Sociale Italiana" in 1990 with the intention to provide a commented compilation of social and demographic statistics on important themes relevant to the life of people (29). Mostly the same domains as in the report of 1988 are covered but the various topics are analysed with much less detail. It could be described as a shorter and actualised version of the report of 1988 with the exception that the domain of income is not included. In both reports, the disaggregations focus on regional differences which seems to be a general characteristic of Italian social reports and appropriate in view of the actual regional disparities of living conditions.

As a continuation of the "Sintesi della Vita Sociale Italiana" ISTAT launched an annual report on the state of the country in 1993 (30). Till now, this report has been yearly published under the same title: "Rapporto Annuale. La situazione del paese" (31). The first edition also appeared in English language (32). This report only partially has a structure by life domains. Instead it provides seven chapters which handle under a common heading the following topics: income, consumption, population, migration, foreigners, poverty, unemployment, environment, crime, informal networks and voluntary work, besides various economic subjects. Furthermore, there is a large part of tables with demographic indicators, data on public services, health expenditure and health care, public order and detention measures, aspects of the living situation of children and youth, women, the elderly, foreigners, as well as a large section with economic statistics. The time series mostly cover the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s.

Later editions of ISTAT's Rapporto Annuale only appeared in Italian language. The most recent report describing the situation in 1998 is available by the Internet (33). This extensive report comprising more than 500 pages consists of eight chapters and a large annex of tables. Three chapters are devoted to economic themes, the remaining ones analyse aspects of human capital, social trends concerning families, spatial mobility (internal migration, commuting, tourism), immigration and foreigners, urban environment, crime, reform of the public administration. The annex of tables considers further important facts and developments partially not included in the chapters: consumption, employment, health, education, culture, poverty, crime, environment, transport. The time series presented in this report go up to 1997. One of the data sources for the compilation of the material has been the "Indagine multiscope sulle famiglie". This multipurpose survey

introduced in 1987 can be viewed as the most important social survey in Italy today. It collects information on structural characteristics and living conditions of Italian families (34).

During the 1990s further social reports have been published by ISTAT. In 1993 "Statistiche e Indicatori Sociali" appeared for the first and last time. This volume was structured by social concerns. Furthermore, since 1996 a "Rapporto sull' Italia" has been edited. These are monothematic volumes focusing on sustainability (1996) respectively the occupation problem and its economic and social consequences (1997) (35).

The first social report in Italy was launched by a private research institute: CENSIS. This institute has annually published social reports since 1967. The reports - "Rapporto Sulla Situazione Sociale del Paese" - have the same gross structure each year (36). They are divided into three parts: Part one contains general considerations, part two deals with the most important actual phenomena that have characterised the respective year, and part three consists of sectoral chapters on education, work, professionalisation, representation, welfare system, territories and networks, economic aspects, public administration, communication and culture. Each chapter provides, besides statements on the total development of the sector and descriptions and analyses of selected aspects of the sector, a systematic compilation of indicators in form of tables preceded by a short commentary text. The aspects considered within each chapter vary from year to year. The result is a very extensive social report of more than 600 pages and with more than 300 tables. It contains elaborated, scientific analyses of important phenomena and developments in the Italian society. But it is not a comprehensive social report in the sense that all important life domains would be considered in a systematic way. Instead the report has the character of a compilation of essays and material on important social issues which are grouped under common headings. Since 1984 a shortened English version has been edited, too (37).

EURISPES is a research institute founded in 1982 which conducts economic, political and social studies on behalf of public or private enterprises or institutes. Since 1989 the "Rapporto Italia: Percorsi di ricerca nella società italiana" has been annually published (38). The report addresses various difficulties and challenges which the country is confronted with on the national or the international level. It deals with a broad range of topics of the economic, political or social realm which are ordered into groups of subjects according to a common perspective they bear or an overarching theme. Subject groups are for example wealth and poverty, adolescence and ageing, legality and illegality, state and market, tradition and innovation, success and failure, inclusion and exclusion, North and South. Thus, like the CENSIS report these volumes cannot be viewed as a usual comprehensive social report on the living situation of the Italians.

As early as the beginning of the 1970s, social reporting activities started in **Spain** with the publication of a social portrait of Spain for the end of the 1960s and beginning of the 1970s entitled "Panorámica Social 1974" (39) which was produced by the National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, INE). This report contains chapters on population, labour, living standards, income distribution, health, education, housing, public safety and crime, and social exclusion which inform about Spanish living conditions by using numerous tables, graphs and cards which are introduced briefly for every single chapter. Thus, this is more a kind of statistical compendium for important life domains. But

Table 4: Selected National Social Reports following the Living Conditions Approach

Country	Editor	Titel	first publ.	periodicity	last publ.	topics						
						population	household/families	women/gender inequality	older people	children/youth	migration/foreigners	education
Luxembourg	CEPS/Instead	Recueil d' Études Sociales 1996	1997	?		x		x		x	x	x
France	INSEE	Données Sociales	1973	3 years	1999	x	x		1993	1990 and 1996	x	x
	Forsé et al.	Recent Social Trends in France 1960-1990 (CCSC-series)	1993			x		x	x	x	x	x
	INSEE	France, Portrait social	1997	?		x	x	x			x	x
Great Britain	Office for National Statistics	Social Trends	1970	yearly		x	x				x	x
	Office for National Statistics	Britain: An Official Handbook	1954	yearly	1998	x	x				x	x
	Office for National Statistics	Key Data. UK Social and Business Statistics	1989	yearly	1998	x	x					x
Italy	Istat/AIS	Immagini della società italiana	1988			x	x				x	x
	Istat	Sintesi della Vita Sociale Italiana	1990			x	x					x
	Istat	Annual Report. State of the Nation 1992	1993	yearly	1993	x		x	x	x	x	x
	Istat	Rapporto Annuale. La Situazione del Paese nel 1998	1993	yearly	1998		x				x	x
	Fondazione Censis	Rapporto: sulla situazione sociale 1997 del paese	1967	yearly	1998							x
	Fondazione Censis	Italy Today- Social Picture and Trends	1984	yearly	1997	x	x					x
Spain	INE	Panoramicá Social	1974	2 years	1994	x	x					x
	INE	Indicadores Sociales	1991	2 years	1997	x	x					x
	Consejo Económico y Social	Espana 1993 (ff.). Economía, Trabajo y Sociedad	1994	yearly	1998	x	x					x
	Fundación FOESSA	Informes sociológicos	1966	irreg.	1994 (5th)	x	x				x	x
	CIRES	La Realidad Social en Espana	1992	yearly	1997	x	x				x	
	DeMiguel, A.	La Sociedad Espanola	1992	yearly	1997	x	x					x
	CECS/Fundacion Encuentro	Informe Espana 1993 (ff.). Una Interpretacion de su Realidad Social	1994	yearly	1998	1998						1998
Portugal	INE	Portugal Social	1992	?	1998	x						x
	Barretto, A. (ICS)	A Situacao Social em Portugal, 1960-1995	1996	?	1999	x			x		x	x
Greece	EKKE	Recent Social Trends in Greece		forth-com.								

topics														subjective indicators	internat. comparis.	comment	
leisure, culture, communication	participation/ social integration	employment/working conditions	income/ consumption	poverty	health	social security/ benefits	public safety/ crime	housing	transport	environment	values/ attitudes	social inequality	social exclusion			rather descriptive report	rather analytic/ scientific report
		x	x	x		x		x						some	some		x
1990 and 1996	1990 and 1996	x	x	x	x	x	1990	1993						rare	yes		x
x	x	x	x	x		x	x				x	x		yes	(international series)	x	
x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			few			rare	few		x
x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				few	yes	x	
x	x	x			x	x			x	x				no	no	x	
x	x		x		x		x	x	x	x				no	yes	x	
x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x						rare	no		x
x		x			x		x	x	x					rare	one	x	
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							rare	no	x	
x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x				rare	no		x
x		x				x			x					rare	yes		x
x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x			yes	many		x
x	x		x		x			x		x				no	yes	x	
x		x	x		x	x		x		x				no	yes		x
	x	x			x	x		x				x		no	yes		x
x	x	x		x	x	x								few	yes		x
x											x			yes	no		x
x	x	x	x		x						x			yes	no		x
1998	1998	1998			1998	1998		1998	1998					yes	1998		x
x		x	x		x	x	x							no	no	x	
x		x	x			x	x	x						no	no		x

in 1994 significant modifications of this first edition led to a publication of the second edition of "Panorámica Social" providing a comprehensive social picture of the Spanish society in the 1990s (40) using social indicators for the domains of population, family, education, labour, science and technology, distribution and consumption, social protection, health, housing, culture and leisure, environment and social opportunities and integration. The second edition of "Panorámica Social" is very clear structured with tables, graphs, cards and explanatory text as well as an additional statistical annex for each chapter, so the masses of indicators and information keep in reasonable limits and make the report a manageable one. Time series are presented which go back to the 1960s, but only objective indicators are used. There is also a monograph on unemployment and the standard of living according to the Spanish Household Budget Surveys 1980/81 and 1990/91 in the last chapter. The 1994-edition of "Panorámica Social de España" follows the OECD List on Social Indicators as well as the INE's own selection of indicators ("Indicadores Sociales") dating from 1991 (41).

After the publication of "Panorámica Social 1974" in 1975 (39), the INE started to work on social indicators again at the beginning of the 1990s and published "Indicadores Sociales" in 1991 (41). This publication put great efforts in methodological objectives, i.e. the selection of indicators was done systematically and well-grounded. This report is created in the Scandinavian tradition of social indicators and welfare research, so subjective indicators are of minor importance. After the description of the used methodology "Indicadores Sociales" describes the situation and the trends in ten life domains (population, family, education, labour, science and technology, income distribution and consumption, social security and benefits, health, housing and environment, and culture and leisure) in the first part with only few tables and graphs within the text but an annex of tables of statistics for each of the selected life domains. The data are mainly covering the 1980s but time series are going back partly to the 1960s. Beside using the official data sources of INE, for the international respectively European comparisons Eurostat databases are used. The second part is providing a monographic analysis which is 1991 on socio-economic disparities of the provinces and autonomous communities.

In 1997, the second edition of "Indicadores Sociales" was released (42) according to the INE's plan to publish this in rotation with "Panorámica Social" every two years regularly. It follows the same structure as the first edition in 1991, but some enlargements were made: a chapter on cohesion and social participation was included, the data are updated until the middle of the 1990s and for nearly all of the selected eleven life domains more indicators are provided, so the size of this second edition of "Indicadores Sociales" has almost doubled.

Since 1994, the governmental Economic and Social Council (Consejo Económico y Social) of Spain is publishing a yearly report which is not only a social report, but also an economic portrait and analysis of labour market development (43). The social, economic and labour market situation is described in detail for the beginning of the 1990s, some time series are showing trends since the 1960s, 1970s or 1980s. The descriptions contain some statistical tables and graphs of official data. Up to now, five reports were published.

Additionally to these official producers of social reports, there are private foundations and research centres in Spain, which are publishing reports on the social situation of the Spanish society:

The private foundation FOESSA (Fomento de Estudios Sociales y de Sociología Aplicada) has published four sociological reports in 1966, 1970, 1983 and 1994 entitled „Informe Sociológicos“ (44-47) which give a comprehensive picture of the situation, the structure and selected social problems of the Spanish society. The editions of „Informe Sociológicos“ were continuously improved and enlarged. The voluminous two-volume edition of 1994 is providing information on social change in Spain, population, social inequality, family, political system, religion, income, health, education, employment and unemployment, pensions, housing, social actions and social security, leisure and life-styles, and information and technology, but, however, the field of environment was not considered. Nevertheless, this is a very detailed and comprehensive analysis of the selected life domains with tables and graphs which are supplementing the analytical descriptions of the social situation in Spain. In the 1994-edition the time period covers the 1980s respectively the beginning of the 1990s mostly by using official data from INE, data from CIRES (Centro de Investigaciones sobre la Realidad Social) as well as survey data conducted by FOESSA. Thus, few subjective indicators have been included, too. Additionally, population statistics forecasting the development until 2030 were produced.

The Centro de Investigaciones sobre la Realidad Social (CIRES) produces "La Realidad Social en España" yearly since 1992 (48). This report on the social situation in Spain is based on CIRES' own indicators system covering socio-economic as well as attitudinal indicators for which data are provided by yearly conducted surveys. Although this report on the social reality in Spain is a very detailed one with empirical analyses of the data, it does not show a comprehensive picture of the Spanish society because not all important life domains are covered and only the chapters on demographic change, supranational identification, attitudes towards immigrants and political and economic culture are being maintained in the different editions. But because of the conduction of the survey by CIRES each year for "La Realidad Social en España", appropriate and up-to date data are available and therefore half of the indicators are subjective indicators. For every edition the CIRES database is published on disk, too.

Another detailed report on the Spanish society - „La Sociedad Española“ - is based on survey data and therefore, subjective indicators on individual well-being, values and beliefs are used beside objective data on population, health, family, consumption, life-styles, education, labour, communication and political culture to describe the social life in Spain (49). „La Sociedad Española“ is an annual series which started in 1992.

Finally, there is an annual experts' report published since 1994 by the Centro de Estudios de Camio Social (CECS)/Fundación Encuentro providing interpretations of various scientists and experts on selected fields of social interest (50). Due to the fact that every year a specific focus is selected the editions are not equally structured and the contents are different each year. The analyses are based on official data.

In **Portugal**, social reporting activities are comparable to those in Spain: official as well as non-official actors are producing social reports.

The first compendium on social statistics and social indicators in Portugal was produced by the Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) in 1992: "Portugal Social, 1985-1990" (52). This was the first comprehensive social report for the Portuguese society covering population, households and family, education, employment and unemployment, working conditions, living standard, social protection, health, living conditions of families, culture and leisure, crime, and European Union-wide comparisons of selected indicators. The indicators - which are describing the social situation for the second half of the 1980s - are presented by tables and graphs as well as short explanatory descriptions. However, a comprehensive summary to link the trends and developments in the selected life domains is missing. In 1998, the second edition of "Portugal Social" was published (53) for the time period from 1991 to 1995. Apart from some improvements in the presentation of the data, a chapter on environmental aspects was added in the 1998-edition of "Portugal Social".

In 1996, a very comprehensive social report on Portugal covering all relevant life domains was published entitled „A Situação Social em Portugal 1960-1995“ (54). This report was produced by social scientists from the Instituto de Ciências Sociais (ICS), a social science institute of the University of Lisbon. The first part of the report starts with a detailed introduction on three decades of social change in terms of the included social indicators on population, health, education, employment and working conditions, income and living conditions, housing, comfort and welfare, social protection, culture, justice, national budget and governmental social functions, for which in the second half of the first part tables and graphs - about 10 to 30 indicators for each of the selected domains - are presented by using time series from 1960 onward, if data are available. Few time series start even at the beginning of the 19th century, for example for some of the population indicators. As a rule, every indicator is taken from official data sources, but also survey data are used, if official statistics for single indicators were not available, but nevertheless, no subjective indicators were used. The second part of „A Situação Social em Portugal 1960-1995“ provides a detailed analysis of the demographic trends in Portugal for the last three decades as well as analyses on culture, economy, social policy and a description of agreements of social concerted actions. These analyses are supplemented by statistical tables and graphs on population, health, education, employment and working conditions, habitat, comfort, well-being, social security, culture, justice as well as various economic indicators. There is also a data base which is - as well as the publication - resulting from the ICS' research project „A formação de Portugal moderno: Situação Social em Portugal, 1960/1995“. The data base is available on floppy disk and online, too (55). It is planned to up-date the statistical tables and to include new elements - namely European comparisons and regional perceptions - and the ICS intends to publish a second edition of „A Situação Social em Portugal“ in 1999.

Greece is the only South European Union country, which has no social report as yet. The National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) is publishing statistical series on social welfare and health, social security, labour, education and culture regularly since the last 20 or 30 years, but there is no NSSG publication in the field of social reporting. The only official source of social statistics on a yearly basis is the Yearbook of Greece, which is published since 1954 in Greek and English (56).

The National Centre for Social Research in Athens (EKKE) - founded in 1960 - has strengthened the engagement in social reporting activities since 1996. EKKE is doing social indicators research and conducts a social survey mainly on sociological topics such as employment, demography, family and the elderly. Recently, EKKE was producing the first report on social trends in Greece from 1960 to 1995, whose publication is forthcoming in 1999 (57).

3.4 Living Standard Research in Central and Eastern European Countries: Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland

In Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland research on social indicators and social reporting activities in the 1990s are first of all considering the living standard of the population focusing mainly on monetary aspects and changes according to the process of transformation of this former socialist countries, whereas only for Hungary a regular social report can be found so far.

The first social report for **Hungary** - the "Társadalmi riport" (Social Report) (1) - was published in 1990 in Hungarian and 1992 in English by TARKI (Social Research Informatics Centre), a consortium of universities and research institutes using the research being done in the Hungarian social indicators movement which already started in the 1970s in the Central Statistical Office in Hungary. During the 1970s, indices and the methodological descriptions of twelve subsystems - similar to the domains elaborated within the framework of the United Nations - were developed (population, family and household, education, employment and unemployment, income and consumption, social security and welfare services, health, public safety, time-use, leisure and culture, and the socio-economic structure). The chapters of the first part of the "Társadalmi riport" are consisting of the topics population and family, education, economy, employment, income, consumption, housing, health, time strategies and way of life, culture and environment, and deviant behaviour with statistical tables and graphs, explanatory text and notes on the used indicators - which are only objective ones. The second part of the Hungarian social reports contains detailed empirical analyses of different areas of social interest and key issues of the transformation process in Hungary. In the second part, also subjective indicators are used as well as international comparisons are included. Co-editor of the "Társadalmi riport" is the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KHS) and for some editions the Budapest University of Economics, too. Since 1990, this report have been published every second year, for the 1998-edition there is again an English version. The structure of the first report in 1990 was reshaped: the part on the social indicators was reduced in subsequent editions and the data of the Hungarian Household Panel (1991-1997) was integrated, too.

A second effort to produce a social report for Hungary was made by the Division of Social Statistics of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office in 1996 with the publication of the "Social Portrait for Hungary" (2). This reports contains chapters on the changes in main processes in terms of demography, employment and economic living conditions, population and social stratification, living conditions in terms of health, education, employment and unemployment, and housing, money and time management (income, consumption, time use), participation, deviant behaviour, and special population groups (cohabiting people, one-parent families, elderly, ethnic groups). Tables and graphs are

presented with detailed explanatory comments for mainly the mid-90s, but if available, long time-series data are used, too. A statistical annex provides additional tables for the most of domains covered. The Central Statistical Office planned to publish the "Social Portrait of Hungary" every second year, the 1998-edition is delayed because of the fact that the KHS intends to improve the social indicators.

In the **Czech Republic** no comprehensive social report can be found so far. The Czech Statistical Office (CSO) is only publishing "Czech Republic in Figures" annually, a booklet containing the most important figures from the Czech statistical yearbook. The 1999-edition can be found on the webpage of the Czech Statistical Office (3). Furthermore, there are two recently published monographic reports of the Central Statistical Office. First, the "Facts about the Social Situation in the Czech Republic" from 1997 (4) which is only available in Czech. This publication - the first of this kind published by the CSO - provides a wide view on social life of the Czech society. It comprises statistical data from demographic and social areas for 1970 to 1995 with comments, analyses, analytical tables and graphs for these time series as well as analyses of selected problems. This report covers aspects on population, marriage, family, household, housing, environment, health, education, social security, economic activity of the population, income and expenditures, and crime and safety. Second, the CSO and the German Statistical Office published "Strucne o Ceske republice a Nemecku / Tschechische Republik und Deutschland in Kürze" (Facts about the Czech Republic and Germany) in 1997 (5), a selection of important statistical figures on the economic, social, demographic and environmental situation for both countries.

The Grant Agency of the Czech Republic is sponsoring the project on „Social Trends“, in which the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, the School of Social Studies of the Masaryk University in Brno and the Faculty of Macroeconomics and Public Administration of the University of Economics in Prague are co-operating to overcome the country's delay in monitoring social developments. This project aims to publish synthesising reports on the Czech social situation mapping the development from economic, social, demographic and political views. So far, only a bulletin called "Social Trends-Information and Analyses" is published regularly since 1997 with several editions each year, which is available online (6) as well as a series on working papers containing in-depth analyses of important social, economic, demographic and political phenomena and processes (6).

The Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs (RILSA) in Prague was established in 1992 as a contribution organisation, i.e. private as well as governmental funding is done for this social and economic research institute. RILSA regularly informs about "Main Economic and Social Indicators of the Czech Republic" in form of a bulletin (7), which is published approximately biannually, presenting the results of the (economic and social) transition process in the Czech Republic. Therefore various official data sources are used, but there is no explanation or description of the statistical figures used.

Until now, there is no comprehensive social report for **Poland**, although there are several surveys on the social situation and living conditions in Poland. The Institute of Philosophy and Sociology is conducting time series surveys on societal conflicts and political attitudes called "The Poles" in 1980, 1981, 1984, 1988 and 1995, in 1998 a survey on economic

well-being including economic success during the transformation and psychological well-being.

The Polish Central Statistical Office (COS) is conducting household surveys continuously since the 1960s and in 1997 the yearly conduction of the survey on living conditions of the society started. First results of the 1997 survey have been published in 1998 (8). Furthermore, there is an analysis of changes in basic socio-demographic structures of the population and families from 1988 to 1995 (8) and a description of living conditions in the mid-1990s in terms of poverty, public expenditures in the social area, demographic trends, economic activity, social welfare, health care, family health conditions, education in the transformation process, housing, economic conditions of families, income and expenditures of households, crime and recreation (10), both produced by the CSO.

4. Summary and Conclusions

In the following section the main features of the existing supranational and national approaches of social indicators research and social reporting will be considered and evaluated. Furthermore, the usefulness of the stocktaking made in this paper and the remaining gaps and difficulties with respect to our future work of developing a European system of social indicators will be addressed, too.

The work of international organisations during the last 10 to 15 years is characterised by a neglect of efforts to develop comprehensive systems of social indicators. The OECD's List of Social Indicators dates from 1982. The last approach of the United Nations is the list of subject-matters and illustrative indicators presented in the Handbook of Social Indicators. The most recent effort was undertaken by Eurostat's Social Indicators Project (1995-1997), but this represents a rather pragmatic solution mainly oriented at the availability of data. A science-based system of social indicators appropriate for monitoring living conditions and social change in Europe is still missing. This gap is also well documented in the yearly recurrent call for "a renewed effort to develop a coherent framework of internationally comparable social indicators" in the Programmes of International Statistical Work in the ECE Region which include the work of OECD, UN, and Eurostat.

The focus of social indicators research and social reporting shifted from comprehensive to sector, group specific, and also regional and local approaches. Various encouraging programmes and initiatives can be stated here:

In the area of education the OECD's system of International Education Indicators published in 1992 and UNESCO's conceptual framework for World Education Indicators can be mentioned. Also Eurostat has given impetus to this field by focusing in particular on vocational training.

Concerning the topics of poverty and social exclusion useful contributions for clarification of concepts and definitions can be especially found in the work context of the UNO. Furthermore, the activities of Eurostat's Working group on Poverty Indicators and the EUROPASS (European Research on Poverty and Social Security) project are appreciable.

The development of indicators is also well advanced in the area of health. The most important impetus to this work was given by the WHO's "Strategy for Health for All", which lead to the construction of a system of indicators, regularly monitoring in the member states and a continuous revision and updating of the indicators. In this work context the Healthy Cities Project is an example for social indicators research at the local level.

During the last years without doubt the most extensive work on indicators can be stated for the topics of environment and sustainability. The efforts were initiated by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the adoption of agenda 21 in 1992. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development was created in order to set up a system of indicators for monitoring progress towards sustainability. The indicators have been developed within an analytical framework - the "Driving Forces-State-Response" framework - which is conceptualised in analogy to the Pressure-State-Response (PSR) framework originally proposed by the OECD for environmental indicators in 1979. It is important to point out that this framework is also referred to by other organisations within

and outside the UN: the UNEP's conceptual framework for environment indicators, the WHO/UNEP HEADLAMP project's DPSEEA framework for environmental health indicators, the World Bank's sustainability matrix, the UN Statistics Division's framework for the development of environment statistics, Eurostat's environmental pressure indicators - they all rely on the PSR framework or can be considered as some kind of variation of it. Thus, this is the only domain where a unifying approach can be observed. Sustainable development also is an example where numerous local efforts to operationalise and measure the concept can be stated.

Finally, during the last years growing attention has been devoted to the development and compilation of indicators catching the living situation of women and issues of gender inequality. Rather elaborated approaches have been proposed by UNESCO in the field of education, by the ILO concerning occupational gender segregation measures and the UNDP's Gender-Related Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM).

As to the state of social indicators research and social reporting at the national level great disparities between the various European countries can be noticed. Some kind of social reporting can be stated in nearly every country, however, there are strong differences in quantity, quality, time of origin and continuity, and the type of actors involved. The North and most of the Western European countries engaged in social reporting rather early while some of the South and East European countries started on social reporting as early as the 1990s. Some countries like France or the Netherlands concentrate their activities on one major comprehensive social report while other countries like Italy produce various social reports of different actors. Few countries can contend to provide social reports on a stable, continuous or even institutionalised basis such as Sweden, the Netherlands, Great Britain or France. In the 1990s, especially Spain as well as Portugal have produced comprehensive social reports which provides regular monitoring of the national social situation. Because of the system changes in the Central and Eastern European countries at the end of the 1980s, social reporting activities just started there in the 1990s.

The diversity of national social reporting is also considerable with respect to qualitative aspects. There exist very extensive, ambitious and elaborated reports on a high analytical level like the Dutch Social and Cultural Report, but also rather concise, modest and simple solutions remaining on a descriptive level like the Norwegian "Levekarsundersokelsen". In some reports a large part of the data is presented as absolute figures, for example in ISTAT's Rapporto Annuale, while in other reports like the most recent Swedish volume mostly substantial and meaningful social indicators have been constructed. Of course, this distinctive feature is probably a result of different functions the reports may serve which in case of the Swedish example lies in providing an information source for social policy decisions. Furthermore, an important qualitative difference in national approaches of social reporting consists in their reference to an underlying welfare concept. In some countries - like the Nordic countries, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland - social reporting is based on a welfare concept which determines the dimensions and indicators to be measured, but only in the German example this has ever be done in the form of an explicitly laid down system of social indicators. However, many European countries provide social reports without any reference to a conceptual framework at all. Besides these differences there are also similarities in national social reporting. The overwhelming part of

social reports are structured by life domains or policy concerns, and there is a considerable agreement on the areas to be considered, although the focal points of interest may differ.

How useful will the present stocktaking be for the future tasks of developing a European system of social indicators? The main profit from this work certainly consists in the gain of information on many relevant aspects:

- information on various concepts like sustainability, human development, poverty, social exclusion and examples for their operationalisation
- information on how to proceed in selecting life domains and goal dimensions for a system of indicators and which criteria can be applied
- information on the scope of relevant domains and dimensions which should be considered
- information on the level of agreement on important life domains and dimensions at the supranational and national level
- information on particular focal points concerning domains, dimensions, disaggregations in the European countries
- a multitude of good examples for the construction of social indicators in the various dimensions
- information on important actors in social indicators research and social reporting concerning specific domains or policy areas and thus information on relevant information sources for the topics selected
- information on important international data sources for the various domains
- information on problems of cross-national comparability
- information on ongoing research and future projects relevant to the EUREPORTING project

So, we can rely on a lot of material which will be helpful in developing a European system of social indicators and setting up time series. Nevertheless many problems and difficulties will remain and of course there are still information gaps.

The existing examples for comprehensive systems or compilations of social indicators have only limited suitability to be used as a model because of either a lack of an underlying welfare concept, or of new dimensions of welfare like sustainability or social exclusion, or of special European aspects. Furthermore, as pointed out the emphasis is on domain and group specific approaches to social reporting. In general, compilations or systems of indicators for special life domains or population groups are too extensive in order to become able to be incorporated into a comprehensive system of social indicators.

One of the main problems will be the issue of cross-national comparability. The supranational organisations produce a bulk of international comprehensive as well as domain or group specific data volumes, statistical compendiums and reports, but the limited cross-national comparability of the statistics is emphasised over again. Despite of existing international standards for concepts, definitions, classifications and the collection of statistics there are still considerable problems of cross-national comparability. This could be a major obstacle for realising the objective of the EUREPORTING project. Therefore, the work of Eurostat concerning data harmonisation at the European level and access to products of this work such as the ECHP will be extremely useful for establishing a European system of social indicators.

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<http://unescostat.unesco.org>
3. *UNESCO: World Education Indicators Conceptual Framework. Internet page:*
<http://unescostat.unesco.org/indicator/indframe.htm>
4. *UNESCO: World Education Report 1998. Teachers and Teaching in a changing world. Paris 1998*
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7. *Moore, H.; Schneegans, S. (eds.): World Science Report 1998. Paris: UNESCO/Elsevier 1998*
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9. *UNRISD/UNESCO: Towards a World Report on Culture and Development: Constructing Cultural Statistics and Indicators. Report of the Workshop in Cultural Indicators of Development, Royaumont Foundation, France, 4-7 January 1996. Occasional paper series on culture and development, No. 1. Geneva;Paris 1997*
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This report shows for selected school years between 1960/61 and 1995/96 age-specific enrolment ratios in primary and in secondary education by gender. Data are shown for countries of all continents. The data base is available through the Internet address:
<http://www.unescostat.unesco.org/>

17. UNESCO, International Bureau of Education (IBE): *World Data on Education. 2nd edition. CD-ROM.* Geneva: IBE Documentation and Information Unit 1998

This CD-ROM (free of charge) contains profiles of the education systems of about 80 countries including many Western and Eastern European countries. All information provided by the profiles has been ordered on the basis of a common structure. They are mainly based on the country reports presented at the International Conferences of Education during the 1990s. Furthermore, the CD contains comparative tables on the number of class hours during the first four years of primary or basic education in the various countries.

18. UNESCO, EFA Forum; Internet page: <http://unesco.uneb.edu/efa/index.html>

The EFA Forum (International Consultative Forum on Education for All) promotes and monitors progress towards Education For All (EFA). The programme has been launched at the World Conference on Education For All (1990, Jomtien, Thailand). The World Declaration on Education For All concerns the goal of universe access to and completion of primary education and reducing illiteracy before the end of the decade. Several target dimensions and indicators for monitoring the achievement of the goals have been formulated. The EFA movement overwhelmingly concerns developing countries.

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An index of democracy is proposed which covers the dimensions of competition and participation. Data on the status of more than 100 countries in relation to this index are shown.

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31. *OECD: Measuring What People Know. Human Capital Accounting for the Knowledge Economy. Paris 1996*
32. *OECD: Education and Equity in OECD Countries. Paris 1997*
33. *OECD: Indicators on Human Capital Investment: A Feasibility Study, OECD Working Paper, Vol. 4. Paris 1996*
34. *OECD: Human Capital Investment: An International Comparison. Paris 1998*
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36. *OECD: Prepared for Life? How to Measure Cross-Curriculum Competencies. Paris: 1997*
37. *OECD: Educational Trends in the 1970s. A Quantitative Analysis. Paris 1984*

Statistics on the development of education in 16 OECD countries during the 70s, analysis of this development and of the behind lying economic, social and demographic factors using national data sources.
38. *OECD: Education and the Economy in a Changing Society. Paris 1989*

Theoretical approach for analysing the increasing relevance for the relationship between education and economy (human resource development).
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Historical overview from the late 1950s to the early 1990s. Exploration of the feasibility of moving from educational statistics to the development of educational performance indicators.
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Eurostat: Education Statistics 1970/71- 1976/77. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1978

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 - Secondary Education in Ireland*

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Secondary Education in Slovenia
1996: *Secondary Education in Finland*
Secondary Education in Estonia
Secondary Education in Poland
Secondary Education in Albania
Secondary Education in Italy
Secondary Education in Scotland
Secondary Education in Spain
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46. Nolan, B. et al.: *Poverty and Policy in Ireland*. Dublin: ERRI 1992
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Study of the 'Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social' (CESIS) in Lisbon focusing on the interrelation between the process of social exclusion and economic and social policies. Development of a system of indicators of the amount and intensity of social exclusion and indicators of political reactions.

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Identification of 18 areas for indicators on de-qualification by 'Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio 74' (CERFE) in Rome. Development of a set of indicators for the identified areas, which were grouped in five "domains of human development": Income Generation, Education and Training, Health and Social Services, Environment and Territory, Human Rights and Democracy.

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<http://www.lissy.ceps.lu/wpapers.htm>

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Review of several equivalence scales used in empirical research and political decision-making processes, in relation of their construction and their characteristics. Fundamental methodological study on equivalence scales.

62. Osberg, L.: *Economic Inequality and Poverty. International Perspectives. New York: Sharpe 1991*

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63. Townsend, P.: *The International Analysis of Poverty. New York: Harvester/Wheatsheaf 1993*

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64. Buhmann Priester, B.: *Armut in Europa. Methodische Überlegungen und Ergebnisse (Poverty in Europe. Methodological Considerations and Results). In: Glatzer, W. (ed.): Einstellungen und Lebensbedingungen in Europa. Frankfurt: Campus Verlag 1993, pp. 151-160*

Overview on the work of Eurostat in the field of reporting on poverty: concept, indicator, equivalence scale, poverty line, method of analysing poverty.

65. Muffels, R.J.A.: *Deprivation Standards and Style of Living Indices. In: Bergman, J.; Cantillon, B.(eds.): The European Face of Social Security. Aldershot: Avebury 1995, pp. 43-59*

Review and discussion of deprivation index approaches, comments on some methodological issues associated with existing deprivation index methods and

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clarification of the definition of an alternative deprivation method called 'subjective deprivation poverty line'.

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Discussion of the main problems of international poverty research: selecting the countries to be compared, the existence of various concepts of poverty and methods of calculating the poverty line as well as difficulties in the practical application of methods and measurements in international comparisons.

67. Gordon, D.; Spicker, P.(eds.): *The International Glossary on Poverty, CROP International Studies on Poverty Research. London: Zed Books 1999*

International glossary providing an authoritative guide to some 200 technical terms used in scholarly research on poverty. Definitions and explanations, followed by a select reading list of relevant journal articles and books. Compiled by scholars of various countries and international agencies.

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1. *World Health Organization (WHO): World Health Statistics Annual, various years. Geneva*
Latest issue is "World Health Statistics Annual 1996", published in 1998
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1995: Bridging the Gap (presents an overview on health expectancy measures)
1996: Fighting Disease, Fostering Development (focus on infectious diseases)
1997 Conquering Suffering, Enriching Humanity (focus on chronic diseases)
1998: Life in the 21st Century. A Vision for All
3. *WHO Mortality Database, see website " <http://www.who.int/whosis/mort/index.htm>"*
4. *World Health Organization (WHO): Catalogue of Health Indicators: A Selection of Important Health Indicators Recommended by WHO Programmes. WHO Document No. WHO/HST/SCI/96.8. Geneva 1996*
5. *The World Bank: World Development Report 1993. Investing in Health. New York: Oxford University Press 1993*
6. *Murray, C.J.L.; Lopez, A.D.: Global Comparative Assessments in the Health Sector. Disease Burden, Expenditures and Intervention Packages. Collected Articles from the Bulletin of the World Health Organization. Geneva 1994*
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8. *EURO-REVES website: <http://sauvy.ined.fr/euroeves>*
9. *Réseau Espérance de Vie en Santé (REVES) : Statistical World Yearbook on Health Expectancy. Retrospective 1993 Issue. Paris: Les Editions INSERM 1994*
Data are also available online at <http://sauvy.ined.fr:80/euroeves/reves>
10. *United Nations, Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe; WHO, Regional Office for Europe; Conference of European Statisticians: Report on the Joint ECE-WHO Meeting on Health Statistics, Rome, 14-16 October 1998 (Document CES/AC.36/1998/3; EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/3; available online at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/1998.10.health.htm>*
11. *WHO: Health for all, website located at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/1998.10.health.htm>*

12. *World Health Organization (WHO): Development of Indicators for Monitoring Progress Towards Health for All by the Year 2000. Health For All Series No. 4. Geneva 1981*
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14. *WHO, Regional Office for Europe: Health for All; Internet page at <http://www.who.dk/policy/hfatxt.htm>*
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16. *Results of monitoring and evaluation of the health-for-all-strategy are given in :

WHO, Regional Office for Europe: Implementation of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000: Second Evaluation: Eighth Report on the World Health Situation. Volume 5: European Region. Copenhagen 1994

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WHO, Regional Office for Europe: Health in Europe 1997. Report on the Third Evaluation of Progress Towards Health for All in the European Region of WHO (1996–1997). WHO Regional Publications, European Series, No. 83. Copenhagen 1998*
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18. *WHO, Regional Office for Europe: Health 21 - The Introduction of the Health for All Policy for the WHO European Region. WHO document. Copenhagen: 1998*
19. *WHO, Regional Office for Europe: European Health For All Database (available at <http://www.who.int/whosis/hfapc/hfapc.htm>). It can also be ordered, free of charge, on diskette from the Regional Office for Europe*
20. *There is also a Global Health-For-All Database covering 74 indicators and 192 countries. It is available at <http://www.who.int/whosis/hfa/index.html>*
21. *de Bruin, A.; Picavet, H.S.J.; Nossikov, A.: Health Interview Surveys. Towards International Harmonization of Methods and Instruments. WHO Regional Publications, European Series, No. 58. Copenhagen: 1996*

In this book a list of indicators is proposed which are best measured by health surveys.

It reports on efforts to harmonize methods and instruments in European health surveys. For a list of indicators common instruments have already been developed.

22. WHO, Regional Office for Europe: *Healthy Cities project*, website located at <http://www.who.dk/healthy-cities/welcome.htm>
23. Doyle, Y.; Brunning, D.; Cryer, C.; Hedley, S. ; Russell Hodgson, C. : *Healthy Cities Indicators: Analysis of Data from Cities across Europe*. WHO, Regional Office for Europe: Copenhagen 1997 (pdf-document made available at <http://www.who.dk/healthy-cities/welcome.htm>)
24. Tsouros, A.D.: *The WHO Healthy Cities Project: State of the Art and Future Plans*. in: *Health Promotion International*, Vol. 10, 2, pp. 133-141, 1995
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27. OECD: *OECD Health Systems, Vol. 1: Facts and Trends 1960-1991, Vol. 2: The Socio-economic Environment. Statistical References*. Paris 1993
28. OECD: *OECD Health Data*. Paris 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998
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30. Jee, M.; Or, Z.: *Health Outcomes in OECD Countries: A Framework of Health Indicators for Outcome-Orientated Policymaking. Labour Market and Social Policy Occasional Papers No. 36*. Paris: OECD 1998
31. European Commission: *The Framework for Action in the Field of Public Health, COM(93)559 final*. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1993
32. European Commission: *The State of Health in the European Community*. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1996
33. European Commission: *The State of Women's Health in the European Community*. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1997
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35. European Commission: *A Community Action Programme on Health Monitoring in the Context of the Framework for Action in the Field of Public Health, COM(95)449 final*. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1995
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Holland, W.W., Paul, E.A. (eds.): European Community Atlas of Avoidable Death. Commission of the European Communities Health Service Research Series No. 9. Oxford: Oxford Medical Publications 1991 (Vol. 1) and 1993 (Vol. 2).

The first edition 1988 describes mortality from 17 conditions in 10 countries for the time period 1974-1978. The second edition describes avoidable death in the European Community in 1980-1984 and changes in avoidable death between 1974-1978 and 1980-1984 for the then 12 EU Member countries. The "Atlas of Avoidable Death" presents outcome indicators to monitor health service performance on the national and international level. The atlas provides tables, maps and graphs, and brief descriptions of the methods, definitions and proposed interpretations of the data.

Chapter 2.2.6

1. *United Nations Statistical Commission; Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Human Settlements; Conference of European Statisticians: Programme of Current Housing and Building Statistics for Countries in the UN/ECE Region. Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 43. New York 1993*
2. *United Nations, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, Statistics Division, Expert Group Meeting on International Statistical Databases: Purpose and structure of ECE databases. Prepared by the Secretariat of the ECE Statistical Division. New York 1997 (document available by the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/expgrp/ac_56_4.pdf)*
3. *United Nations, Economic and Social Council, Statistical Commission; Economic Commission for Europe; Conference of European Statisticians: Programmes of International Statistical Work in the ECE Region, 1995/96 and 1996/97: An Integrated Presentation. Sub-Programme 4: Social and Demographic Statistics. Forty-Third Plenary Session 1995*
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6. *United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): DATAHOUSE, website located at <http://www.unchs.org/unon/unchs/habrdd/dhouse.htm>*
7. *United Nations, Economic and Social Council, Statistical Commission; Economic Commission for Europe; Conference of European Statisticians: Programmes of International Statistical Work in the ECE Region, 1997/98 and 1998/99: An Integrated Presentation. Sub-Programme 4: Social and Demographic Statistics. Forty-Fifth Plenary Session 1997*
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10. *OECD: Creating Indicators for Shaping Territorial Policy. Paris 1994*
11. *OECD: Territorial Indicators of Employment. Focusing on Rural Development. Paris 1996*
12. *OECD: Better Understanding Our Cities. The Role of Urban Indicators. Paris 1997*
13. *United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, Inland Transport Committee, Working Party on Transport Statistics: Transport Database and Information Systems Development. Compendium of Transport Database and Information System Capabilities in the ECE Region. Note by the Secretariat. Working Party on Transport Statistics, Forty-eight session, 3-5 November 1997. Document No. TRANS/WP.6/1997/Rev.2, October 1997 (available on-line at <http://www.itu.int/itudoc/un/editrans/wp6/wp6fdocs.html>)*
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15. *United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe: Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America. Vol. XLVII, 1997. New York; Geneva 1997*
16. *United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe: Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America. Vol. XLII, 1997. New York; Geneva 1997*

Chapter 2.2.7

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2. *see general information on CSD at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csdgen.htm>*
3. *Indicators of Sustainable Development. Programme of Work on Indicators for Sustainable Development of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Online document available at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/program.htm>*
4. *Indicators of Sustainable Development. From Theory to Practice: Indicators of Sustainable Development .. Online document available at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/indi6.htm>*
5. *United Nations, Commission on Sustainable Development: Indicators of Sustainable Development. Framework and Methodologies. New York 1996*
6. *The CSD Working List of Indicators of Sustainable Development is available online at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/worklist.htm>*
7. *The country profiles are available at <http://www.un.org/esa/earthsummit/ga97nat.htm>*
8. *Development Watch. Monitoring Progress on Sustainable Development. Website located at <http://www.undp.org/devwatch/>*
9. *United Nations System-Wide Earthwatch. A window on United Nations work to observe and assess the global environment. Website located at <http://www.unep.ch/earthw.html>*
10. *Sustainable Development. United Nations System-Wide Web Site on National Implementation of the Rio Commitments. Located at <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/>*
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12. *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection (RIVM): An Overview of Environmental Indicators: State of the Art and Perspectives. UNEP/Environment Information and Assessment Technical Report 94-01; RIVM/402001001. Nairobi 1994*

13. *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): Global Environment Outlook*. New York: Oxford University Press 1997. Also an Internet version is available at <http://www.unep.org/unep/eia/geo1/>
14. *A list of national State of Environment Reports is available at* <http://www.unep.org/unep/soe.htm>. In part they are available online.
15. *The most recent report is:*
World Resources Institute; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); World Bank: World Resources 1998-99. A Guide to the Global Environment. Environmental Change and Human health. New York: Oxford University Press 1998

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Kjellström, T.; Corval'an, C.: Framework for the Development of Environmental Health Indicators. In: *World Health Statistics Quarterly 1995*, 48 (2), pp. 144-154

Briggs, D.; Corvalán, C.; Nurminen, M. (eds.): Linkage Methods for Environment and Health Analysis: General Guidelines. A Report of the Health and Environment Analysis for Decision-Making (HEADLAMP) Project. Document WHO/EHG/95.26. Geneva: WHO 1996
17. *World Health Organization (WHO): Health and Environment in Sustainable Development. Five Years After the Earth Summit*. Geneva 1997. A table of content and a summary is available on the Internet at http://www.who.int/peh/ehdocs/hesd_hom.htm
18. *Pearce, D. W.; Warford, J.J.: World Without End. Economics, Environment, and Sustainable Development*. New York: Oxford University Press 1993
19. *Munasinghe, M.; McNeely, J.: Key Concepts and Terminology of Sustainable Development*. In: *Munasinghe, M.; Shearer, W. (eds.): Defining and Measuring Sustainability. The Biogeophysical Foundations*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank 1995, pp. 19-56
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22. *The World Bank: Expanding the Measure of Wealth: Indicators of Environmentally Sustainable Development. Environmentally Sustainable Development Studies and Monographs Series, No. 17. Washington, D.C. 1997*
23. *The Framework was originally presented in:*
United Nations, Statistical Office: A Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics. Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 78. New York: United Nations Publications 1984

It was further developed and illustratively applied in:
United Nations, Statistical Office: Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics. Statistics of the Natural Environment - A Technical Report. Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 57. New York: United Nations Publications 1991
24. *United Nations, Economic and Social Council, Statistical Commission and ECE: Conference of European Statisticians: Programmes of International Statistical Work in the ECE Region, 1998/99 and 1999/2000: An Integrated Presentation. Programme Activity 5: Environment Statistics. Forty-Sixth Plenary Session, Document CES/1998/10/Add.5, 1998*
25. *United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe; Conference of European Statisticians: Environment in Europe and North America: Annotated Statistics 1992. Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 42. New York: United Nations Publications 1992*

This compendium has one part with standard statistics on environmental topics and a second part devoted to a special issue.
26. *Becker, E.; Jahn, Th.; Stiess, I.; Wehling, P.: Sustainability: A Cross-Disciplinary Concept for Social Transformations. MOST Policy Papers 6. Paris: UNESCO 1997. Pdf-document at <http://www.unesco.org/most/discuss.htm>*

In 1995, within the framework of the UNESCO's MOST (Management of Social Transformations) programme the Institute for Social-Ecological Research at Frankfurt/Main initiated an international research project called "Sustainability as a Concept for the Social Sciences". The objective of this project is to clarify the concept, especially the social, economic and political dimensions and their interrelationships and links to the environment, and to intensify efforts for a cross-disciplinary approach to this subject.
27. *OECD: Urban Environmental Indicators. Paris 1978*
28. *OECD: The State of the Environment. Paris 1979*
29. *OECD: The State of the Environment. Paris 1985*
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31. *OECD: OECD Environmental Data. Compendium 1985-1997. Paris 1985-1997*
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 - 1993: *Germany, Iceland, Norway, Portugal*
 - 1994: *Japan, United Kingdom, Italy, Belarus*
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 - 1996: *United States, Bulgaria, Sweden, New Zealand*
 - 1997: *France, Spain, Korea, Finland, Belarus*
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33. *OECD: Environmental Performance in OECD Countries. Progress in the 90s. Paris 1996*
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35. *OECD: OECD Core Set of Indicators for Environmental Performance Reviews, OECD Working Papers Vol. 1, No. 18. Paris 1993*
36. *OECD: Environmental Indicators. A Core Set. Paris 1994*
37. *OECD: Towards Sustainable Development - Environmental Indicators. Paris 1998*
38. *OECD: Sustainable Development. OECD Policy Approaches for the 21st Century. Paris 1997*
39. *OECD: Guiding the Transition to Sustainable Development: A Critical Role for the OECD. The Report of the High-Level Advisory Group on the Environment to the Secretary-General of the OECD. 25th November 1997, on-line document: www.oecd.org/subject/sustdev/hlage.htm*
40. *OECD: OECD Work on Sustainable Development. A discussion paper on work to be undertaken over the period 1998-2001, on-line document: www.oecd.org/subject/oecdwork.htm*
41. *OECD: Environmental Information Systems and Indicators. A Review of Selected Central and Eastern European Countries, OECD/GD(93)61. Paris 1993*

Description of the reforms underway of the environmental information systems in the former CSSR, Hungary and Poland. Furthermore, initial indicators - using the core set of environmental indicators (see 10.) - are presented, providing a comparative overview of environmental conditions and trends.
42. *OECD: Environmental Indicators: A Review of Selected Central and Eastern European Countries, OECD/GD(96)156. Paris 1996*

Presentation of selected indicators on the state of and trends in environmental conditions, pressures and responses (PSR framework) in 5 CEECs - Bulgaria, Czech

Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Poland - and the Russian Federation and up-date of the 1993 publication (see 41.). Brief overview of the evolution of environmental pressures and conditions since the beginning of the transition process.

43. International Energy Agency: Indicators of Energy Use and Efficiency. Understanding the Link between Energy and Human Activity. Paris 1997

Energy use indicators for analysing the complex structure of energy demand in industrialised countries and for monitoring the strategies of reducing the growth of energy demand. Proposing a system of energy indicators based on energy use.

44. *European Community: "Towards Sustainability" - the European Community Programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development ('The Fifth EC Environmental Action Programme'), COM(92)23 final. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1992*
45. *European Environment Agency; Eurostat: Environment in the European Union 1995. Report for the Review of the Fifth Environmental Action Programm. Copenhagen 1995*
46. *European Environment Agency: Europe's Environment: The Dobris Assessment. Copenhagen 1995*
47. *European Environment Agency: Europe's Environment: The Second Assessment. Copenhagen 1998*
48. *Eurostat, European Commission: Statistical Compendium for the Dobris Assessment, Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1995*
49. *Eurostat, European Commission, European Environment Agency. Europe's Environment: Statistical Compendium for the Second Assessment. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1998*
50. *Eurostat: Environment Statistics 1989. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1990*
51. *Eurostat: Environment Statistics 1991. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1992*
52. *Eurostat: Environment Statistics 1996. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1997*
53. *Eurostat: Indicators of Sustainable Development. A Pilot Study Following the Methodology of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1997*
54. See www.telcom.es/~tau and europa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/serven/part7/env/en716.htm.
55. *European Commission: European Sustainable Cities. Report. Brussels 1996*

56. *European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions: Urban Sustainability Indicators. Luxembourg: EUR-OP 1998*

57. European Environment Agency; WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH): Environment and Health (I): Overview and Main European Issues, WHO Regional Publications, European Series, No. 68/EEA Environmental Monograph no. 2, 1996

Report on the influence of the environment on health. This report represents the complement and continuation of two related projects: the report "Europe's Environment: The Dobris Assessment" (EEA) and "Concern for Europe's Tomorrow: Health and the Environment in the WHO European Region" (WHO Regional Office for Europe). The contribution of environmental factors to the main causes of death and morbidity in Europe are discussed, and three significant issues which causes significant damage to the health of many people in Europe are examined (pollution of air, microbiological contamination of drinking-water, road-traffic accidents).

58. European Environment Agency: Air Pollution in Europe. Copenhagen 1997

Assessment of environmental problems in relation to air pollution in the 15 EU Member States and other European Countries and description of societal developments relevant for air pollution problems within the European Union (population increase, fast growth in transport, continuous growth in tourism, continuous increase in energy consumption, agricultural utilisation).

59. *Worldwatch Institute: State of the World 1984-1999. London;New York: Earthscan;W.W. Norton 1984-1999*

60. *Friends of the Earth Europe: Towards Sustainable Europe, The Study. Brussels 1995*

61. *Daly, H.E.; Cobb, J.B.: For the Common Good. Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, the Environment and a Sustainable Future. Boston: Bacon Press 1989*

62. *Cobb, C.W., Cobb, J. B., The Green National Product. A Proposed Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare. Lanham: University Press of America 1994*

63. *Kuik, O.; Verbruggen, H. (eds.): In Search of Indicators of Sustainable Development. Dordrecht: Kluwer 1991*

Papers and results of two workshops in 1989 and 1990 on the option for measuring sustainable development with scientists from different disciplines. These workshops were organised by the Institute for Environmental Studies of the Free University Amsterdam at the request of RIVM (the National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection), a Dutch institute working in the field of sustainable development. Conclusion of the workshops was that a set of indicators should be multidisciplinary, natural resources should be integrated into national economic accounts. A complete set of Satellite Accounts of natural resources in physical

dimensions was seen as desirable and indicators should be developed which include both causes and effects of environmental degradation and resource depletion.

64. MacGillivray, A.: *A Green League of Nations*. London: New Economic Foundation 1993

Report on the measurement progress toward sustainable development in different OECD countries using a range of environmental indicators to rank the countries.

65. Bartelmus, P.: *Environment, Growth and Development. The Concepts and Strategies of Sustainability*. London: Routledge 1994

Analysis of sustainable economic growth and development based on operational variables derived from the new system of 'green accounting'. Beyond economic issues, ways of evaluating social, cultural, aesthetic or ethical issues are also proposed.

66. Rennings, K.: *Indikatoren für eine dauerhaft-umweltgerechte Entwicklung (Indicators for sustainable development)*. Stuttgart: Metzlerl-Poeschel 1994

Development of a system to assess environmental indicators considering welfare theories and ecological economics.

67. Hammond, A. et al.: *Environmental Indicators: A Systematic Approach to Measuring and Reporting on Environmental Policy Performance in the Context of Sustainable Development*. Washington: World Resource Institute 1995

Report on the approach to structure environmental pressure indicators into four highly aggregated indices: pollution index, resource depletion index, ecosystem risk index, index of environmental impact on human welfare. This report is focused on environmental issues, but steps to move beyond environmental indicators are also done by considering sustainable development.

68. MacGillivray, A.; Zadek, S. (eds.): *Accounting for Change, Indicators for Sustainable Development*. London: The New Economic Foundation 1995

Report on the selection, development, adoption, and meaningful application of appropriate sustainability indicators (on international, regional, national, and local levels). Information and material from the New Economic Foundation seminar on sustainable development in London in October 1994 (see also: MacGillivray, A. (ed.): *Accounting for Change*. Papers from an international seminar, Toynbee Hall, October 1994, The New Economic Foundation, London 1995). The New Economic Foundation (<http://www.neweconomics.org/>) is working on new measures of development in relation to social justice and environmental sustainability. Key conclusions of the report are, that the traditional indicators of economic progress - like GNP - are now recognised as inadequate measures of sustainable development, that sustainable development indicators are widely advocated by the many national and international bodies and that there is a lack of integrating meaningful environmental and social

indicators into critical decision-making processes by mainstream national and international institutions.

69. *Trzyna, T.C. (ed.): A Sustainable World, Defining and Measuring Sustainable Development. London: Earthscan 1995*

Discussion of the definitions of Sustainability and Sustainable Development and review of the measuring progress.

70. *Atkinson, G. et al.: Measuring Sustainable Development. Macroeconomics and the Environment. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar 1997*

Presentation of an economic concept of sustainable development, but with regard to the social dimensions of sustainable development. The focus of this publication is on the theory and practice of economic development viewed from the perspective of sustainability. This book is the result of the collaboration of CSERGE (Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment, London) and the World Bank. CSERGE developed the measures of sustainability and the World Bank has taken these measures and developed them into global indicators, considering the economic, environmental and social dimension of sustainability.

71. *Hardi, P. et al.: Measuring Sustainable Development: Review of Current Practice, Occasional Paper Number 17, November 1997. Ottawa: Industry Canada 1997 (available on-line: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ra01575e.html>)*

Description of a selection of measurement approaches in use at the end of the 1990s for measuring the progress toward sustainable development, and highlighting of the aspects of particular interest to those designing their own measurement systems. This review contains the description of standard concepts of sustainable development and measurement, including indicators as measurement tools. Furthermore, practical examples of ongoing measurement work and major trends of the contemporary indicators work are described. Beside the discussion of national approaches in Canada, the measurement approaches, conceptual frameworks, and methodological issues are classified and practical guidelines for assessing progress toward sustainable development are presented.

72. *Spangenberg, J.H.; Bonniot, O.: Sustainable Indicators - A Compass on the Road Towards Sustainability, Wuppertal Papers Nr. 81. Wuppertal: Wuppertal Institute für Klima, Umwelt, Energie. September 1998*

Presentation of a draft system of so-called "interlinkage indicators" for the macro level which permits to connect some key driving forces for sustainable development (environment, economy, social affairs) by referring to existing systems of indicators (such as the Press-State-Response-Approach, the World Bank indicators, UNDP's Human Development Index or the UN-DPCSD's approach). For the micro level, a draft set of business sustainability indicators, providing stakeholders with the information they need beyond profitability, is presented (including an analogue of the Human

Development Index-HDI for the company level called 'Corporate Human Development Index'-CHDI).

73. <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/about/m&i.htm>

74. <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/measure/compindex.asp>

75. <http://www.igc.org/millennium/links/inds.html>

76. <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/cds/kap7.htm>

77. Noll, H.-H.; Kramer, C.: Umweltberichterstattung und Umweltindikatoren. Informationen zum Zustand und Wandel der Umwelt (Environmental Reporting and Environmental Indicators. Informations on the state and changes of the environment), in: Dieckmann, A., Jäger, C.(eds.): Umweltsoziologie, Sonderband der KZfSS, Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag 1996, pp. 516-547

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2. *United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI): The International Crime (Victim) Survey. Website located at <http://www.unicri.it/unicri/project/RESEARC2.html>*
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4. *United Nations Office at Vienna: Crime Trends and Criminal Justice Operations at the Regional and Interregional Levels: Results of the Third United Nations Survey of Crime Trends, Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and Crime Prevention Strategies. New York: United Nations Publications 1993*
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2. *United Nations Statistics Division: Wistat. Women's Indicators and Statistics Database. Version 3, CD-ROM. New York 1994*
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5. *United Nations, Economic and Social Council, Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination: Social Statistics: Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. Report of the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences. Note by the Secretary-General. New York 1996*
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10. *Siltanen, J.; Jarman, J.; Blackburn, R.: Gender Inequality in the Labour Market. Occupational Concentration and Segregation. A Manual on Methodology. Geneva: International Labour Office 1995*
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