

European Data Watch

This section will offer descriptions as well as discussions of data sources that may be of interest to social scientists engaged in empirical research or teaching courses that include empirical investigations performed by students. The purpose is to describe the information in the data source, to give examples of questions tackled with the data and to tell how to access the data for research and teaching. We will start with data from German speaking countries that allow international comparative research. While most of the data will be at the micro level (individuals, households, or firms), more aggregate data and meta data (for regions, industries, or nations) will be included, too. Suggestions for data sources to be described in future columns (or comments on past columns) should be send to: Joachim Wagner, University of Lueneburg, Institute of Economics, Campus 4.210, 21332 Lueneburg, Germany, or e-mailed to (wagner@uni-lueneburg.de).

The European Community Household Panel (ECHP)

By Christine Wirtz and Lene Mejer¹

1. Introduction

The ECHP is a standardised survey conducted in Member States of the European Union under the auspices of, and with support and co-ordination from Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It was launched in response to the increasing demand in the European Union for comparable statistics on income, work and employment, poverty and social exclusion, and other social indicators. The survey is multidimensional and covers a large number of issues.

¹ Christine Wirtz is working for Unit E2 of Eurostat. Lene Mejer is working for the INSEE, the French national statistical office from 01. 09. 2001. The material used for this article has been taken from documents produced by Eurostat staff or consultants working on the ECHP. Not least Dr. Vijay Verma's input has been important in this respect.