Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics

Submitted by Wendy Thomas

SCORUS Conference
23rd Conference on Regional and Urban Statistics and Research on “Statistics for the Cities of Tomorrow” was organized in Lisbon Portugal, 11-15 June 2002 by the National Statistical Institute of Portugal (INE).

The conference was delivered successfully. It was opened by the Secretary of State for Environment Mr. Jose Martins with Dr. Paulo Gomes Director, INE and welcomed by the Chairperson of SCORUS. The keynote speech of the Executive Director of UN -HABITAT was delivered by Mr. M. Hundsalz on her behalf. The next SCORUS Conference will be in Minneapolis, USA in 2004.

There were more than 100 Statisticians from all over the world including those from UN, EUROSTAT, OECD, many national and international organizations, City Statisticians Government Departments, Universities, research institutions etc. The SCORUS Conference in Lisbon had several very good academic papers, which are being published in the proceeding of the conference, and a CD-ROM will be developed.

The Committee Meeting of SCORUS on 11 June 2002 in INE, Portugal deliberated on various issues including strengthening the SCORUS through its activities and working closely with the IAOS. The current Committee tenure is up to the Berlin Session in August 2003. The next meeting of the Committee will take place in Berlin during the ISI session. SCORUS will address the following major issues in its future activities, Poverty, Homelessness, Slum Statistics, Terrorism Statistics, Urban crime, Urban Violence, HIV/AIDS, Street Children and of course Comparative City Statistics. The SCORUS journal “Cities and Regions” will be published regularly and it will be made a high quality scientific journal.

We had very successful meeting in London with the Executive of IAOS. SCORUS business plan was discussed and it was agreed to explore the possibilities to upgrade the SCORUS as an independent section of ISI. SCORUS has been provided funds for membership activities and its publicity for attracting more members. SCORUS will plan its activities for building a network of urban and regional statisticians, researchers and planners soon.

Next event of SCORUS is in Berlin 2003 where two invited paper sessions will be organized by SCORUS and one satellite meeting in Potsdam, Germany 21-23 August 2002. The two invited paper sessions on Impact of Migration on Urban Areas and Intra-city Differentials and Its Measurement Issues will be organized by Mr. Klaus Trutzel (kum.trutzel@t-online.de) and Mr. Markandey Rai (Markandey.Rai@unhabitat.org) respectively. Preparations for organizing these two sessions are progressing very well. The speakers and the discussants have been identified and reported to the Programme Committee.

SCORUS under the umbrella of the International Statistical Institute – is organising a satellite conference in Potsdam, Germany, neighbouring city of Berlin 21 – 23 August 2003, where the 54th ISI Conference is taking place. This conference will be the starting point for an international network for urban and regional statistics to establish continual work on methods and indicators in this field. The satellite conference in Potsdam is focussing on:

Standards for Regional and Urban Indicators.

It will be combined and jointly organised with the German Statistical Week, the traditional conference of the Union of German Municipal Statisticians and the German Statistical Society incorporating also the German Society for Demography.

The SCORUS Satellite Conference will start with a joint opening session including also the participants of the national conference focussing on Europe and looking at it from the global, the national, the regional and the urban point of view. The problems of social coherence in cities and regions, with special attention to the integration of migrants will be discussed in four workshops:

- measuring coherence of the resident population
- supply oriented aspects of integration policies
- territorial reference of comparative measures of coherence
- Definitions, descriptions and methods: metadata for regional and urban indicators.

The Local Organising Committee is chaired by Reiner Pokorny, City of Potsdam. Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee is Markandey Rai, UN Habitat, and Nairobi, Kenya. Inquiries about the conference can be addressed to Klaus Trutzel, Nuremberg, Germany (e-mail: kum.trutzel@t-online.de).