Proposal for the statute of SCORUS

SCORUS has continued to make progress on the development of a Proposal for the statute of SCORUS to submit to the IAOS leadership. The purpose of the statute is to more clearly define the mission, structure and activities of SCORUS within the IOAS structure. Our goal is to continue to build on our current relationships within IAOS and ISI and to increase participation of users and producers of regional and urban statistics.

The draft proposal includes Goals and Institutional Background, SCORUS Management, the SCORUS Network, and Panel of Advisors.

Goals and institutional background

(1) SCORUS, a platform to facilitate the development of urban and regional statistics and research, is an organisation under the umbrella of the International Association for Official Statistics – IAOS – within the International Statistical Institute - ISI.

(2) SCORUS’ mission is to stimulate and organise a worldwide dialogue on urban and regional research and statistics and to promote in depth statistical analyses with the aim to contribute to progress in this field and to improve the understanding of urban and regional phenomena as well as the comparability of concepts and results. SCORUS aims to enhance the knowledge created for urban and regional policy.

(3) In order to provide a platform for worldwide dialogue and to exchange on a large scale the knowledge on indicators, methods and results of regional and urban statistics, SCORUS

- organises special conferences on regional and urban research and statistics as well as sessions at ISI and IAOS conferences
- provides an internet platform for the continuous exchange of knowledge and of ideas and for developing consensus positions on relevant issues,
- actively tries to enlarge the participation of users (researchers, policy makers, consultants) and producers (at municipal, regional, national and international level) of regional and urban statistics in this worldwide exchange of experience and ideas,
- promotes the exchange and co-operation on topics of common interest within Regional SCORUS groups.

The three remaining sections detail organizational structures and discuss the activities and governance of SCORUS. It notes the group’s emphasis on concepts of standardization of urban and regional indicators, collaborative work on harmonization of methods, development of discussion forums, and a new focus on regional activities. The concept of the regional groups grew out of our May 2004 conference in Minneapolis. These regional groups often were dealing with more similar political and organizational environments and could meet and discuss issues more easily. Formalizing this structure also recognizes the historical pattern of regional conferences supported by SCORUS and will help tie all of these activities together.

Upcoming Conferences

Berlin Conference 2005, the annual Berlin SCORUS conference on “Statistics and the Help for Young People in Big Cities”, 17-19 January 2005, Berlin, Germany. The focus of this year’s conference is “Health, Morbidity and Mortality”. We would like to thank Professor Eckart Elsner for once again organizing this conference in cooperation with Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend und Sport(Senates Administration for Education, Youth and Sports), Statistisches Landesamt Berlin, and SCORUS. During this conference (9th in a series of annual meetings), experts from welfare institutions, social workers, politicians, scientists from universities and research institutes and official statisticians analyze and speak about regional and urban issues concerning young people. The results of this conference will be published on a CD-Rom. Check SCORUS site following the conference for availability.

Competing and Caring: Urban Research for European Policy, to be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 7-10 September 2005. The conference is organized by SCORUS Europe Group, the KCGS International and the Municipality of Amsterdam and will focus on:

- the role of cities in Europe
- key indicators for change
- analysis of Urban Audit data

The central themes of the conference sessions are:

- knowledge economy and competitiveness
- integration, social cohesion and crime reduction
- urban and regional research and statistics; new developments
- dissemination of policy oriented research

The target group for this conference includes urban researchers and statisticians, urban planners and policy makers. Although the conference is focused on European urban policy all SCORUS members and friends are welcome. Additional information can be found at http://www.os.amsterdam.nl or contact Joanna van Antwerpen <j.antwerpen@os.amsterdam.nl>.