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**Review of European countries experiences  
from questionnaires  
on non-market health and education services  
launched in June 2006**

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## **Review of European countries' experiences on non-market health and education services**

- Based on the questionnaire of June 2006 -

The availability of price and volume measures of national accounts data that are reliable and comparable across Member States is essential for monitoring economic developments in the European Union and for the implementation of the so-called Stability and Growth Pact.

The EU legislation provides for the application, by the Member States, of output methods in order to compile price and volume measures of national accounts aggregates. These methods are presented in the "Handbook on price and volume measures in national accounts" published by Eurostat in 2001. Three types of methods are identified: the most appropriate methods (A methods), the ones which may be used if the most appropriate methods cannot be implemented (B methods) and those that shall no longer be used by the end of 2006.

EU Member states were asked to establish inventories of sources and methods used for estimating prices and volumes in national accounts. Based on the analysis of the inventories of EU-15, Eurostat concluded in 2005 that some C methods were still being used and asked the countries concerned to remove these methods before end 2006. Eurostat is currently assessing the inventories of EU-10.

In June 2006 Eurostat sent, to the Member States, a list of questions prepared in co-operation with OECD in order to monitor the Member States' progress towards the deadline of end 2006. The main objective of Eurostat was to identify the main areas of difficulties in the Member States in order to define possible solutions, particularly in the form of a sharing of experience between countries.

The list of questions addressed to the Member States was limited and aspects of the questions still require further clarifications. More complete results of the questionnaire, together with a summary of the good practices identified, will be presented at the next meeting of the Eurostat's National Accounts Working Group on 14-15 November 2006. More exhaustive information on the improvements achieved and the new methods used by the Member States will only be available by the deadline of end 2006.

The purpose of this presentation is to present some provisional findings from the questionnaire sent to EU Member states to nourish discussions at the Workshop on 3-5 October 2006 in London. Two separate presentations on health and on education respectively have been prepared. In the presentations, some interesting approaches developed by some countries are described to serve as input in the discussions. If they so wish, the participants from these countries could provide more information on these approaches and more generally share their experience with the other participants.