

*STATISTICS IN TRANSITION-new series, July 2009*  
*Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 171—173*

## **REPORT**

### **SCORUS CONFERENCE“ INCOME AND LIFE CONDITIONS” BERLIN, 6-8 APRIL 2009**

From 6th to 8th April 2009 the annual conference SCORUS (Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics) took place in Berlin. The meetings in Berlin are entitled „Youth Assistance in Big Cities and Statistics”. „Income and Life Conditions” was the main subject of the conference in April. The standard of living, poverty, differences in the income levels were crucial and most strongly discussed issues of the social policy amongst both the countries of the European Community and all over the world. Thus, there was a need for a wider discussion amongst the scientists invited to this year's conference.

Guest from several countries such as China (Hong Kong), Japan, the USA, Canada, The Great Britain, Finland, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland participated in the meeting in Bildungs - und Begegnungszentrum „ Clara Saulberg”. During the three days of the conference nearly 20 papers were presented.

The meeting was opened by its organizer – prof. dr Eckhart Elsner. Each speaker was given 20 minutes for both presenting the paper and discussion. Although the subject of the conference was specific, the problems discussed in the papers were of various character. Fundamentally, they could be divided into four main thematic branches: tax issues, the comparison of situation of young people in different countries, living conditions, budgets and quality of life and Urban Audit. The Urban Audit provides European Urban statistics for 258 cities across 27 European countries. It contains almost 300 statistical indicators presenting information on matters such as demography, society, economy, environment, transport, the information society and leisure.

Numerous discussions, which were eagerly conducted by the participants, gave the possibility of information and experience exchange. Moreover, they enriched the thematic scope of the conference by touching additional issues and expanding the subjects of the papers.

As in previous years, the organizer provided various attractions. The participants were given the opportunity to visit Reichstag and Bioshare in

Potsdam where they could see many exotic plants. They could also visit Villa Thiede built as summer residence of Johan Hampspohn in 1906.

The concert of the Verdi-Choir was a spectacular ending of the last day of the conference. It presented the pieces of Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Mendelssohn.

It is worth noting that the atmosphere and effectiveness of these meetings are influenced by the fact that many participants of the conference in Berlin are persons who, for years, have been taking part in it at the invitation of prof. Dr Eckhart Elsner.

The titles of the papers and their authors:

1. It has been 20 years now since the Berlin Wall fell. Again of the traditional views on the history of Berlin – prof.dr Eckhart Elsner.
2. The effect of taxation and social benefits on income distribution - Kam – To Dominic Savio Leung, China.
3. Youth and housing conditions in France – prof. dr Maurice Blanc, France.
4. Portuguese Urban Areas Typology – Alexandra Isabel Marques Rodrigues Correia, Portugal.
5. The situation of the young people in Berlin, Detroit and Toronto – an attempt of the comparison – prof. Eileen Trzeciński, Canada.
6. The comparison of life condition indicators of young people from selected European countries – Dorota Olszewska and Anna Żakowska, Poland.
7. Living conditions and budget of young people in Switzerland – Huguette McCluskey, Switzerland.
8. Socio-economic situation of disabled people in Poland – Sabina Augustyn and dr Paweł Ulman, Poland.
9. German statistics on income – research data centres as providers of macrodata – Dagmar Pattloch, Germany.
10. Income, life conditions and poverty in Helsinki – Markku Lankinen, Finland.
11. The economic-institutional perspective on cultural participation of young people in Poland – Michał Chlebicki, Poland.
12. Income and taxes duties of families in Wrocław – dr Marek Kośny and Edyta Mazurek, Poland.
13. Modelling sovereign credit ratings – Anna Król and Klaudia Przybysz, Poland.
14. Income and living conditions in the periphery – epistological issues, Dereck Bond, UK.
15. Living conditions of households in Prague and some of subjective remarks on the standard of living – Jana Podhorska and Jitka Weissova, Check Republic.

16. Measuring the quality of life in Budapest and other European cities – Norbert Bakos, Hungary.
17. Small area statistics about children's living conditions in Stockholm County and some about the rest of Sweden – Ulla Moberg, Sweden.
18. Income, consumption, housing and stocks of durables of young families in Poland – prof. dr Izabella Kudrycka and Małgorzata Radziukiewicz, Poland.
19. Changing shape of income distribution in Japan – prof. Tsunomu Tanaka, Japan.

Prepared by  
Klaudia Przybysz

