

Full title: **Figuring integration Eurostat and the informational foundation of the EU**

Name: Dr. Ulf Sverdrup

Affiliation: ARENA, Center for European Studies, University of Oslo, Norway

Theme: The informational foundation of decision making.

Focus: The role of numerical information in the European Union.

I Aims:

- I-I Getting a better understanding of the role of numerical information in EU decision making
- I-II Examining the processes through which the EU has integrated the national systems of numerical information

II The argument:

II-I The role of statistics:

1. Numerical information is becoming increasingly important in EU decision making.
2. Due to task expansion and increased heterogeneity in the EU, there has been an increasing demand for, and usage of, numerical information in order to reduce complexity and ease comparisons.
3. Increased use of numerical information and statistics is also a tool in increasing the democratic quality of European governance.
4. Numerical information can also be seen as a way of developing European identities and self understandings.

II-II The mechanisms of change:

1. Statistical integration has evolved through some of the well known dynamics of integration, such as task expansion, technical problem-solving, bargaining between parties with different national normative orientations, traditions and standardized routines; as well as through responding to unexpected events and crisis.
2. Cleavages observed in most areas of European integration, such as for instance the relationship between national sovereignty and supranational autonomy; have played an important role in the process of integrating statistics.
3. Two other mechanisms, which are often ignored in the literature, have played an important role in explaining the dynamics of integration.
 - i. The introduction and use of new technologies.
 - ii. The EU has benefited from alternative and pre-existing forms of international co-operation.