

## Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Origin of the survey

The Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS) was part of the action programme for the development of continuing vocational training in the European Community (FORCE) based on Council Decision 90/267/EEC of 29 May 1990. One of the various transnational measures envisaged under this programme was the exchange of comparable data on continuing vocational training.

It was envisaged that, to begin with, in close cooperation with the Eurostat Working Party on Education and Training Statistics and with the competent organizations in the Member States, the data available to them would be systematically collated and, on the basis of work already carried out at national level, comparable concepts and a common methodological framework would be developed for use in all Member States. On the basis of this preliminary work, questionnaires would then be sent to a representative sample of undertakings for the purpose of a specific survey of their CVT activities.

That survey, now generally known by the abbreviation CVTS, is the subject of this publication.

### 1.2 Preparing for the survey at Community level

In consultation with the FORCE Committee and the Eurostat Working Party on Education and Training Statistics, a special working group was set up to coordinate the preparatory work for the CVTS, on which all Member States, the Commission - through the Task Force Human Resources (TFHR) - Eurostat and top employers' and workers' organizations were represented. The Member States each sent two representatives: a statistical expert and a representative of the ministries responsible for vocational training. The TFHR was also assisted by the FORCE Technical Assistance Office and the Centre for Training Policy Studies at Sheffield University.

The CVTS common framework described below and the associated definitions and recommended methods were drawn up by this working group.

### 1.3 Scope of this publication

This publication describes the conceptual background to CVTS and how the requirements worked out at Community level were implemented in the 12 Member States of 1994. It also gives a quantitative overview of the findings of the survey in summary form for EUR12.