

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

Meeting on Statistics of Water Use and Quality (Geneva, 14–17 January 1985)

The meeting had been convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the ECE Committee on Water Problems. It revised and completed the draft ECE Standard International Classification of Water Use and Quality, and recommended a unified terminology for use in systems of water statistics. In addition, a number of methodological issues regarding the collection and compilation of water statistics were discussed.

(Report of the meeting: CES/AC.56/30; WATER/AC.5/4)

First meeting of the Task Force on Statistical Computing (Geneva, 8–9 February 1985)

The Task Force on Statistical Computing was established by the Conference of European Statisticians at its 1984 plenary session, in order to ensure the continuation of co-operation in the field of software development following the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project (SCP). The Task Force is composed of representatives of the lead countries of the Joint Groups (for the work of the Joint Groups, see *The Statistical Computing Project*, *Statistical Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 2, April 1984, pp. 213–219). The Task Force reviewed the work accomplished by the Joint Groups, considered their work programmes for 1985/86, and discussed the dissemination of the results of the SCP.

(Report of the meeting: CES/542)

Nineteenth session of the Working Party on Electronic Data Processing (Geneva, 11–15 February 1985)

The Working Party considered national reports on the use of EDP in statistical offices and on recent developments in the creation and extension of automated statistical data banks in countries of the ECE region. It discussed the following specific questions: (i) experiences in the use of data-dictionaries; (ii) use of EDP in the production of statistical publications; and (iii) strategic planning. The Working Party also reviewed the results achieved by the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project (SCP) and considered in detail the measures taken by the

Conference of European Statisticians for ensuring the continuation of the work undertaken within the SCP.

(Report of the meeting: CES/WP.9/226)

Meeting on Statistics and Indicators on the Role and Situation of Women
(Geneva, 11–14 March 1985)

This meeting was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). The participants reviewed statistical activities undertaken by INSTRAW, exchanged experiences on data sources used to obtain statistics and indicators on the situation of women, and considered the adequacy of existing classifications, as well as methodological problems in such statistics. The meeting also drew up a recommended programme of future work for the Conference.

(Report of meeting: CES/AC.60/24; INSTRAW/AC.2/24)

Meeting on General Methodological Problems in Environment Statistics
(Wiesbaden, 23–26 April 1985)

This third meeting on methods of environment statistics was hosted by the Federal Republic of Germany. The meeting discussed various techniques of the collection of environmental data, the compilation of generalized environment statistics, their representation as well as their analysis. Discussion was based on contributions from eight countries. The meeting also recommended priorities for future work under this project.

(Report of the meeting: CES/553)

Meeting of Socio-Economic Group Classification (Geneva, 20–22 May 1985)

The participants exchanged experiences on methods for assigning socio-economic positions to persons and households. The meeting reviewed the 1980 recommendations for censuses of population and housing pertaining to socio-economic groups classifications. Also discussed were methodological work and empirical studies which could improve the method of assigning socio-economic positions to households.

(Report of the meeting: CES/546)

Meeting on Population Censuses (Geneva, 22–24 May 1985)

The participants reviewed past difficulties in complying with the ECE recommendations for the 1980 round of population censuses, examined the extent to

which the 1980 recommendations had been complied with in the region as a whole, and outlined changes for the purpose of obtaining update recommendations for use in the 1990 round of population censuses.

(Report of the meeting: CES/554)

Thirty-third plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, 17–21 June 1985)

The Conference considered in substantive discussions the problems of publication, dissemination and interpretation of data, and the dependency of the quality of statistics upon the quality of registers and other bases for the production of survey data. The Conference also reviewed the results achieved in the past and the direction of its present and future work on population and housing censuses. Finally, a revised programme of work was adopted for the years 1985/86–1989/90.

(Report of the meeting: ECE/CES/26)

Publication of the results of the European Comparison Programme

The results of the European Comparison Programme of Phase IV of the International Comparison Project (ICP), entitled *International Comparison of Gross Domestic Product in Europe, 1980 - Results of the European Comparison Programme*, have been published in the series Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 37, New York, 1985. The publication consists of five parts: Introduction and summary of results; organization of the European Comparison Programme; methodology; results of the comparison between Group II countries for 1980; and results of the overall European comparison for 1980. Several tables providing detailed information on specific aspects of the Comparison are appended.