

## Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

### **Meeting on manpower statistics** (Geneva, 27–29 January 1986)

The meeting was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the International Labour Organization to consider the possibilities of developing a Labour Accounting System (LAS). The participants discussed the purpose and scope of the proposed LAS and other aspects such as requirements for consistency of data, flow and stock data, reference periods, measures of volume and variables and classifications to be included in it. (Report of the meeting: CES/571.)

### **Meeting on general energy statistics** (Geneva, 10–13 February 1986)

The meeting was convened to update definitions for use in international energy statistics. It recommended further harmonization of practices followed by the IEA/OECD, the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the ECE. A classification of energy producing activities was finalized. Further work on this project will focus on the improvement of the coverage of ECE energy statistics bulletins (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.32/42).

### **Meeting on statistical methodology** (Geneva, 17–19 February 1986)

The agenda of the meeting covered problems of small area estimation, the use of administrative data instead of or in conjunction with survey data, data collection problems and techniques (focussing, in particular, on the use of computers for collecting data) and the use of population censuses and registers as sampling frames. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.48/72.)

### **Working Party on National Accounts and Balances** (Geneva, 3–7 March, 1986)

The twelfth session of the Working Party on National Accounts and Balances discussed problems related to the revision and extension of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA), the recent developments in the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) of the CMEA and the establishment of links between SNA and MPS. Special attention was paid to the concept of total

consumption of the population and the integration of input-output tables with national accounts. (Report of the meeting: CES/WP.22/89.)

**Meeting on cultural statistics** (Geneva, 17–20 March 1986)

This meeting was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and UNESCO. The participants reviewed the classification of cultural spheres and the various matrices which comprise the Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS). They also considered possibilities for establishing the FCS within the Framework for the Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.44/12 and Add.1.)

**Meeting on social indicators** (Stockholm, 9–11 April 1986)

This meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Sweden, was convened to conduct an in-depth review of the draft “Handbook of Social Indicators” prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office. The participants recommended a number of improvements to be made to the Handbook prior to its publication. (Report of the meeting: CES/569.)

**Meeting on methodological questions of environment statistics** (Oslo, 5–8 May 1986)

The Government of Norway had invited the meeting to Oslo. Methods used for the collection of air quality and related statistics and for linking environment with other statistics were discussed. The issue of how best to present environmental information received also special attention. The meeting recommended topics for discussion at the 1987 meeting of this cycle (Warsaw, June 1987). (Report of the meeting: CES/576.)

**Meeting on migration statistics** (Geneva, 26–28 May 1986)

The participants reviewed efforts being made by ECE countries to improve the quality and international comparability of international migration statistics, comparisons between the actual and intended duration of stays and absences of migrants, and the results countries have obtained in bilateral studies aimed at clarifying differences in the size of a particular migration stream as measured by the two countries involved. (Report of the meeting: CES/573.)

**Seminar on statistics of consumer prices** (Geneva, 2–6 June 1986)

The Seminar was convened jointly by the ILO and the Conference of European Statisticians. The following items were discussed:

- (i) Conceptual problems and international comparability of consumer price indexes;
  - (ii) Relationship between consumer price and other price indexes;
  - (iii) The treatment of quality changes and seasonality;
  - (iv) Weighing, disaggregation and precision of the CPI.
- (Report of the meeting: CES/SEM.19/3.)

**Thirty-fourth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians** (Geneva, 16–20 June 1986)

The Conference considered in substantive discussions problems connected with the organization of multipurpose surveys and the use of statistics for the purpose of management at the governmental level. It also reviewed problems raised by the integration of various international classifications. Finally, it adopted a revised programme of work for the years 1986/87-1990/91. (Report of the meeting: ECE/CES/28.)

**Seventeenth session of the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe** (Geneva, 14–17 July 1986)

The meeting was convened jointly by FAO, the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Conference of European Statisticians. It reviewed the draft European Supplement to the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture and discussed in detail various aspects of farm typology. The Study Group discussed national experiences with regard to farm registers. (Report of the meeting: FAO/ECE/CES:ESS(86)-7.)

**Guide to energy statistics published by the ECE, the IEA/OECD and the SOEC**

This revised guide was issued as document CES/473/Rev. 1. It contains an overview of the relevant publication programmes of the three agencies, definitions and accounting conventions used for purposes of overall energy balances and informs of the presentation of overall energy balances.