

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

Meeting on frameworks for environment statistics (Geneva, 11–15 January 1988)

This meeting took place shortly after the publication of “Environment Statistics in Europe and North America” (UN sales no. E.87.II.E. 28), a data compendium that had concluded ten years of work by the Conference of European Statisticians on international environment statistics. Thus, the meeting was called upon to review that work critically and to derive a proposal for future work from this assessment. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.40/37.)

Seminar on statistical methodology (Geneva, 1–4 February 1988)

National experiences of countries in the ECE region were exchanged on the following topics: longitudinal surveys and cohort analysis; numeric edit and imputation procedures; methods of controlling quality; and the use of multivariate methods for the presentation of the results of large surveys. (Report of the seminar: CES/SEM.23/3.)

Consultation on price observation carried out by ECE member countries in other countries (Geneva, 7–8 March 1988)

The development of methods and activities on price collection abroad were reviewed for the purpose of adjustment of salaries and allowances of personnel employed abroad. Substantial progress has been achieved in co-ordinating related activities between various international agencies, and it was recognized that there was still more room for the extension of this co-operation. (Results of the consultation: CES/615.)

Seminar on Ecological Statistics (Rome, 28 March–1 April 1988)

On various occasions during past work by the Conference of European Statisticians on environment statistics, questions had arisen as to the possibility of basing such statistics more extensively on ecological and biological sciences. The Seminar was convened to shed light on these questions in a comprehensive

way. The discussion resulted in several proposals for modification of envisaged future work by the Conference. (Report of the seminar: CES/SEM.22/3.)

Working partly on National Accounts and Balances (Geneva, 2–5 May 1988)

The Working Partly considered the revision and updating of the SNA by discussing and commenting on the recommendations of past expert group meetings on the subject. It also discussed satellite accounts as a possible extension of the central framework of national accounts. (Report of the meeting: CES/WP.22/96.)

Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and related matters (ISIS) (Bratislava, 16–20 May 1988)

ISIS '88 studied selected problems connected with the design and development of computerized statistical information systems, distributed processing (including the requirements for portability and adaptability of software), unification and standardization in statistical data processing, and the use of knowledge-based methods in the production of statistics. In addition, participants were informed of the work accomplished by the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project (SCP). The seminar also prepared proposals for future work in this area. (Report of the seminar: CES/SEM.24/2.)

Thirty-sixth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, 13–17 June 1988)

The Conference considered in substantive discussion the pros and cons of annual and multi-annual programmes established by national statistical offices, and the marketing of statistical services. It discussed the results achieved in the past and the direction of future work on environment statistics. The Conference also reviewed the results of the meetings it had convened during the past year, and revised its programme of work for the years 1988/89–1992/93. (Report of the plenary session: ECE/CES/32.)