

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

Fifth Joint Meeting on statistics of education (Geneva, 30 January–2 February 1989)

This meeting was convened jointly with UNESCO. The participants focused their attention on adult and out-of-school education statistics, problems in the international comparability of statistics of education, education finance statistics, individual-based data systems, and longitudinal surveys and studies. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.23/48).

Working Party on electronic data processing (Geneva, 27 February–2 March 1989)

The Working Party discussed the impact of new processing techniques on the management and organization of statistical data processing and reviewed a series of national reports on the use of data base management systems in national statistical offices.

Considering the development of standards for statistical data interchange, the Working Party recommended that a Working Group be created to tackle this problem within the framework of UN/EDIFACT. (Report of the meeting: CES/WP.9/259).

Consultation of the International Comparison Project (Vienna, 6–9 March 1989)

The consultation discussed the terms of the 1990 round of the European Comparison Programme, including the scope and shape of the comparison (classification systems, etc.), the possible introduction of new methods, and the organization of work. (Report of the consultation: CES/630).

Meeting on environmental classifications (Geneva, 20–23 March 1989)

The meeting finalized the ECE Standard Statistical Classifications of Land Use (CES/637) and of Water Use (CES/636). Furthermore, a revised Draft ECE

Standard Statistical Classification of Wastes was prepared (CES 638). (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.63/6).

Second Joint Meeting on human settlements statistics (Geneva, 20–23 March 1989)

This meeting, which was convened jointly with the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, reviewed the content and structure of the ECE's Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and proposed a number of changes. It also reviewed the European Programme of Current Housing Statistics and recommended that it be updated. Experience was exchanged on the use of housing sample surveys. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.55/14).

Seminar on the value and importance of population and housing census data (Wiesbaden, 24–28 April 1989)

This seminar was held in Wiesbaden at the invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition to discussing the value, importance and uses of censuses to countries, the participants exchanged views on the prospects for replacing censuses by surveys and administrative registers, and considered the possibilities for taking improved and more cost effective censuses. Issues related to the public's perceptions of the census were discussed, as was the servicing of census markets with census products. (Report of the seminar: CES/SEM.25/9).

Working Party on National Accounts and Balances (Geneva, 16–19 May 1989)

The fourteenth session of the Working Party considered in detail the revision and updating of the SNA. As regards the links and comparisons of SNA and MPS, it discussed the use of SNA in centrally planned economies, the use of the MPS approach in countries other than centrally planned economies, and the possibilities of integration of the two systems. (Report of the session: CES/WP.22/104).

Thirty-seventh plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, 12–16 June 1989)

The Conference discussed (i) the possibilities for enhancing the informative note of statistics through comprehensive analysis and interpretation of data, and (ii) the problems raised by the use of micro-computers in statistical services and the strategies to be followed in implementing this new technology. The Conference reviewed recent activities, discussed and approved the reports of the various meetings held since its previous plenary session and adopted a revised programme of work for 1989/90–1993/94. (Report of the session: ECE/CES/34).

Study Group on food and agricultural statistics in Europe (Geneva, 17–20 July 1989).

The Nineteenth session of Study Group was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the FAO/ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems. It reviewed national experiences in applying the European Handbook of Economic Accounts for Agriculture and other international recommendations, and considered the general co-ordination of data collection and harmonization of international questionnaires in the field of agricultural statistics. (Report of the session: CES/AC.61/13).