

# Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

## **1. Meeting on statistics of women (Geneva, 13–16 November 1989)**

The Conference of European Statisticians convened this meeting jointly with the U.N. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). The participants discussed improved measures of women's labour force participation, of labour inputs and valuation of their outputs (including the development of satellite accounts and the valuation of households' productive activities). National programmes to develop the statistics required for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies were presented. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.60/45).

## **2. Sixth meeting of the Task Force and Third meeting of the Steering Committee of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project Phase 2 (SCP-2) (Vienna, Austria, 13–17 November 1989)**

The meetings considered the work done and planned by the six Joint Groups dealing with microcomputers in statistical environments. The representatives of participating countries expressed strong interest in continuing close co-operation also after the life-time of the project. It was agreed that future co-operation should be application-oriented.

## **3. Working Party on transport statistics (Geneva, 20–23 November 1989)**

The Working Party is convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the Inland Transport Committee of ECE. It discussed the development of internationally comparable standards, including methods of data collection and methodical issues concerning statistics on inland transport. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.62/49).

## **4. Work Session on statistics of water quality (Geneva, 4–8 December 1989)**

The session was entirely devoted to the elaboration of an overall draft ECE Standard Classification of Ecological Freshwater Quality. The classification aims

at associating river stretches and freshwater lakes separately with water quality classes I to V. These quality classes are defined in terms of a list of variables, whose class limits are derived from ecological considerations. The draft classification will be tested in conjunction with the compilation of the 1991 Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics. The work session recommended to elaborate a similar classification for marine waters. (Report of the session: CES/662).

**5. Work Session on statistics of economic aspects of environmental protection (Geneva, 11–13 December 1989)**

The meeting agreed on a draft structure of statistics on environmental protection and a draft structure of statistics on environmental protection facilities. Both classifications will be tested during the compilation of the 1991 Compendium of ECE Environment Statistics. The session asked for a more comprehensive treatment of economic statistics of the environment by the Conference of European Statisticians. (Report of the session: CES/663).

**6. Meeting on the use of business registers in national statistical offices (Geneva, 12–15 February 1990)**

The meeting was devoted to registers of businesses which are kept in national statistical offices. It considered the following questions: uses of business registers (as a survey basis; for supplementing and/or correcting survey data; source of information for outside users; etc.); structure and maintenance of business registers; demography of enterprises (definitions of births; deaths; changes in status of enterprises; etc.); statistical units; and quality problems of registers. The meeting recommended a re-oriented work programme which will concentrate on the development of a proposal for the contents and format of a European register. (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.66/14).