

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

1. Work Session on Migration Statistics (Geneva, 9–11 April 1990)

The session focussed on the efforts being made by ECE countries to improve the international comparability of immigration and emigration statistics, and the growing tendency for countries in the region to make use of innovative approaches and supplementary data sources in their attempts to compensate for important gaps in the immigration and emigration statistics so as to obtain more complete coverage of the numbers of persons migrating into and out of the country (Report of the session: CES/666).

2. Work Session on Statistics of Services (Geneva, 30 April–2 May 1990)

The work session reviewed the progress made by the various bodies active in this area (including the Voorburg Group) and considered possible future work by the Conference of European Statisticians in this field with special regard to a practicable co-operation between the different international institutions concerned (Report of the session: CES/66).

3. Work Session on Housing Statistics (Geneva, 14–16 May 1990)

The session was convened jointly by the ECE Conference of European Statisticians and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. The participants reviewed national practices in the collection and compilation of statistics on housing renovations, improvements, repairs and maintenance, and recommended ways in which these types of housing statistics could be further developed in the future (Report of the session: CES/665).

4. Seventh Meeting of the Task Force of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project Phase 2 (Bratislava, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 10–11 May 1990)

The meeting considered the work done and the planned activities of the individual Joint Groups of the Project. It discussed the status of the dissemination of the up

to now finalized outputs and future outreach policy. The meeting studied the proposal for future joint co-operation in the field of statistical microcomputing after the life-time of the SCP-2.

5. Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and Related Matters (ISIS) (Bratislava, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 14–18 May 1990)

The Seminar discussed experiences in the use of new techniques for data collection, data capture, automatic coding of descriptive data and the implementation of methods of artificial intelligence into the statistical production process. It considered the progress in the work and results achieved within the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project Phase 2. The Seminar studied and discussed the proposal for future co-operation in the field of statistical EDP under the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians and recommended it to the Conference for approval. It also prepared a proposal of the study programme for the ISIS Seminar in 1992 (Report of the meeting: CES/SEM. 27/2).

6. Work Session on Specific Methodological Issues of Environment Statistics (Stockholm, 4–8 June 1990)

The meeting discussed statistics on the marine environment and fauna and flora statistics as well as the Conference's future role in the development of these two areas of environment statistics. For both marine environment and fauna and flora statistics, establishing a geographical information system seems to be a prerequisite for a coherent statistical information system. As a result, the meeting decided to give priority to the development of marine environment statistics and to include a new work session on this subject in 1991/92 and, possibly, 1992/93 in the work programme of the Conference. Consequently, the meeting suggested to delete the work session on noise statistics and postpone the work session on radioactivity statistics.

7. Thirty-eighth Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statistics (Geneva, 11–15 June 1990)

The Conference discussed (i) the plans and needs of statistical offices in transition countries in detail, (ii) methodological problems of foreign trade statistics, (iii) relations between statistical services and the mass media, and (iv) the role of statistical offices in satisfying statistical needs for research purposes. The Conference also discussed the perspective of its future work and adopted a revised programme of work taking into account especially problems of transition countries (Report of the session: ECE/CES/36).