

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

1. Meeting on disparities in foreign trade statistics (Geneva, 12–13 November 1990)

The meeting considered the reasons for existing disparities in foreign trade statistics. It also undertook a detailed consideration of practical approaches to solving the problems of disparities and reconciliation of trade data from different sources (Report of the meeting: TRADE/AC.25/2, CES/AC.45/8).

2. Eighth Meeting of the Task Force of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project Phase 2 (Prague, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 12–13 November 1990)

The meeting evaluated the status of the scheduled outputs of the Statistical Computing Project and future maintenance of the SCP-2 software products. It also considered the activities of the Joint Groups terminated by the end of 1990 and recommended work plans for the issues to be completed in 1991. Furthermore, the meeting studied objectives of co-operation within sub-programme 12.2 (Statistical Information Technology) of the programme of work of the Conference. It discussed possibilities to use the SCP-2 network for the assistance to the transition countries in this field (Report of the meeting: ECE/UNDP/SCP2/TF8).

3. Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project Phase 2 (Prague, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 14–16 November 1990)

The meeting adopted the work plan for 1991 and made proposals on maintenance and dissemination policy for the outputs of the Project after its lifetime. It recommended new methods and forms of future co-operation for consideration at the twenty-second session of the Working Party on EDP. The possibility of joint work within the fifth UNDP programming cycle was discussed. The meeting supported the recommendation of UNDP that the SCP framework can be used for assistance to countries in transition. The first proposal of such a co-

operation should be prepared till June 1991 (Report of the meeting: ECE/UNDP/SCP-2/SC-4).

4. Working Party on Transport Statistics (Geneva, 26–28 November 1990)

The Working Party was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the Inland Transport Committee of the ECE. It discussed questions concerning the methodological development, the harmonization and reconciliation of international transportation data, including methods of data collection. It also considered adequate transition projects in the field of transport statistics (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.62/65).

5. Workshop on financial statistics (Geneva, 14–17 January 1991)

The workshop was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the International Monetary Fund. It was organized as a training seminar for participants from national statistical offices, ministries of finance and central banks of interested countries in central and eastern Europe. The workshop provided an overview of the various areas of financial statistics and their interrelationships (Report of the workshop: CES/680).