

## Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

### **Third joint meeting on health statistics (Geneva, 15–18 February 1982)**

The meeting was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. It considered the possibilities of adapting the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps for use in collecting statistics on disabilities and handicaps from household surveys, and exchanged views on the procedures being used by some countries in the ECE region to obtain health-related statistics by linking population-based and institution-based data sources. The meeting also reviewed proposed indicators for monitoring progress in the region towards the goal of Health for All by the Year 2000, reviewed efforts underway at the national and international level to measure more comprehensively economic aspects of health care, and agreed on a list of topics for further work.

### **Meeting on human settlements statistics (Geneva, 15–18 March 1982)**

The meeting was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. It reviewed work underway in different international organizations on the development of social indicators in the field of housing and human settlements, and recent developments in housing sample surveys in ECE member countries. It also examined proposals for amending the structure and content of the ECE's Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and specified the extent to which member countries could supply the required data, and considered the advisability of updating and revising the European Programme of Current Housing Statistics. The meeting also prepared a list of topics for possible future work.

### **Consultation on practical problems of the European comparisons within the framework of the ICP (Vienna, 29–31 March 1982)**

The actual problems of the comparisons among Group II countries of the European comparison programme (Austria, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia) and the ways and means of linking the results between Group I and

Group II countries were discussed. The participants agreed on a programme of successive actions until the final publication of the results of the European comparison of real product and purchasing power parities.

**Meeting on food and agricultural statistics in Europe** (Geneva, 3–6 May 1982)

The thirteenth session of the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians, the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and the FAO. The Study Group reviewed developments in data requirements during the last 10–15 years in the field of agricultural statistics. In view of the increasing needs for agricultural statistics on one side and the limited resources available for the production of agricultural statistics on the other, the meeting assessed the scope and contents of possible future work in this area and proposed a revised programme of work for the years 1983–1987, including one meeting each year. The next meeting (1983) should be devoted to the problems encountered in providing statistics of the agricultural population including all aspects of the use of labour in agriculture.

**Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and related matters (ISIS Seminar)** (Bratislava, 10–14 May 1982)

At the invitation of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and in co-operation with the Federal Statistical Office, the Seminar was held at the Computing Research Centre, Bratislava. The purpose of the Seminar was to study selected problems connected with the design and development of computerized statistical information systems. The following topics were discussed: (i) data entry; (ii) data dissemination; (iii) interactive terminal-oriented interface between statistical users and the computer; and (iv) automated statistical information systems design and data modelling.

**Meeting on timeliness, cost and quality attributes of statistics** (Geneva, 26–28 May 1982)

The meeting discussed whether practices followed in some ECE member countries in presenting quality attributes of statistics could constitute a basis for the development of international guidelines in this field. The participants agreed that the national practices reviewed provided an excellent basis for the formulation of such international guidelines, and identified the types of information that should be incorporated into the first draft of the guidelines. The meeting also examined recent developments in the work undertaken by the Committee on Terminology of the International Association of Survey Statisticians on the development of an internationally accepted terminology on survey sampling and quality attributes.

**Eleventh session of the Working Party on National Accounts and Balances**  
(Geneva, 1–4 June 1982)

The main objective of the meeting was the review of the United Nations' System of National Accounts with particular regard to its envisaged developments during the present decade. The Working Party suggested discussing four topics at its next session as a regional contribution to the overall review of the SNA, namely (i) the treatment of natural resources, (ii) measurement of total consumption of the population, (iii) integration of input–output tables with national accounts, and (iv) national accounts at constant prices. The Working Party also reviewed the achievements made in developing MPS (the accounting system used in centrally planned economies) and in linking SNA and MPS. Furthermore, the Working Party discussed the co-ordination of economic statistics with national accounts and balances. Finally, the Working Party dealt with the role of enterprise statistics on the basis of surveys of national experiences in this field.

**Thirtieth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians** (Geneva, 21–25 June 1982)

The Conference of European Statisticians reviewed the activities pursued in its current work programme and established its programme of work for 1982/83–1986/87.

Mr. P.J. Bjerve, former Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics of Norway, and one of the founders of the Conference, delivered a lecture on “Three decades of the Conference of European Statisticians: past achievements and perspectives for future work”. Mr. D. Balevski (Bulgaria) and Mr. E. Malinvaud (France) addressed the Conference on the influence of the work of the Conference on the activities of statistical offices in their respective countries.

Two sessions were devoted to in-depth discussion of selected problems which are of direct interest to directors of national statistical offices.

The two topics selected for substantive discussion during this plenary session were: ways and means to adapt statistics to users' needs; and possibilities of replacing, totally or partially, exhaustive inquiries, especially population and housing censuses, by using administrative registers.