

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

Work session on statistical metadata (Geneva, 15–18 November 1993)

The meeting considered (i) progress in the development and implementation of statistical metainformation systems, (ii) problems of transition of METIS due to methodological, technological or political reorganization, (iii) guidelines for METIS modelling and development, (iv) formal methods for metadata description, (v) progress in regard to DOSES in the field of statistical metadata, (vi) inventory on international standards for the representation of statistical data and metadata, (vii) generic model for the standardization of statistical indicators, (viii) common terminology of METIS, and (ix) evaluation of METIS, focussing on evaluation criteria, confidentiality and functionality aspects of statistical metainformation systems. (Report: CES/800.)

Working party on transport statistics (ITC, CES) (Geneva, 24–26 November 1993)

The working party noted the joint publication of the Glossary of Transport Statistics in English, French and Russian under the auspices of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (UN/ECE, Eurostat, ECMT). The glossary will be used in concert with a new joint questionnaire, also developed by the group. The glossary and questionnaire taken together are intended to enhance the harmonization of transport statistics in road, rail, inland waterways transport and pipeline transport and to reduce the response burden of UN/ECE member countries. In addition, the working party was informed of the publication of the 1990 E Road Traffic Census in which 20 UN/ECE countries participated and noted that preparations were underway for the 1995 E Road Traffic Census. The census is considered a crucial part of the group's work since it is the only one of its kind carried out on an all-European basis. (Report: TRANS/WP.6/125.)

Joint ECE/IEA energy statistics working group meeting (Paris, 7–8 December 1993)

The meeting obtained confirmation of the content and structure of the four joint annual energy questionnaires, which represent four years of harmonization work between ECE, IEA, Eurostat and the Statistical Division of the United Nations in

New York. The meeting also approved the collection of more complete information on renewable energy statistics through the existing energy questionnaires. The participants expressed satisfaction with the idea of convening joint meetings in the field of energy statistics. The relationship between energy and areas such as the environment and transport was pointed out as important for future work.

ACSO/ECE/Eurostat/OECD workshop for transition countries on the European Comparison Programme (Paris, 24–28 January 1994)

The fourth meeting of the workshop considered the following topics of interest for Group II countries: (i) classification of expenditure on the GDP; (ii) compilation of expenditure data; (iii) comparison of non-market services; (iv) comparison of rents in Group II; (v) balancing items; (vi) completion of questionnaires.

Readings in international environment statistics

A manual-type publication containing (a) all international standard statistical classifications for environment statistics that were drafted for the Conference of European Statisticians, (b) practices of selected countries (Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA) in estimating air emissions, (c) practices of selected countries (Netherlands, Sweden) in estimating water emissions, (d) Dutch method of compiling materials' balances, and (e) bibliography of methodological papers on environment statistics that were prepared for the Conference of European Statisticians. Can be obtained from ECE Statistical Division, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.