

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, 16–20 March 1987)

The draft recommendations for the 1990 round of censuses in the ECE region were reviewed and amended. The recommendations include definitions, classifications and tabulations for numerous demographic, economic and social topics for use in population and housing censuses during the period from 1985 to 1994. The amended set of recommendations was approved by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 1987, and is published in the Statistical Standards and Studies series (No. 40). (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.6/155 and Add.1.)

Working Party on the Framework for the Integration of Social and Demographic Statistics (Geneva, 4–6 May 1987)

The ninth session of the Working Party reviewed recent work on the development and harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications in specific fields, particularly cultural statistics and health statistics, and considered the question of links among economic, social and demographic statistics. It also discussed problems encountered in the collection and use of statistics of time use, and work on social indicators and socio-economic groups. (Report of the meeting: CES/WP.34/71.)

Meeting on Statistics and Indicators on Women (Geneva, 18–20 May 1987)

Methods of measuring women's contribution to household income, experiments in estimating the monetary value of housework, domestic chores and other home-based activities, use of time-use surveys to derive statistics on women and estimates of women's under-employment were the topics considered at this meeting. (Report of the meeting: CES/599.)

Eighteenth session of the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe (Geneva, 21–24 September 1987)

The Study Group considered a glossary of selected concepts used by FAO and CMEA in the field of food and agricultural statistics. It discussed methods using

remote sensing for purposes of agricultural statistics, as well as special problems of forecasting and quality control. Among them were methods of estimated area of planting, of forecasting harvest and yield, typology of errors and possible evaluation and control measures. (Report of the session: CES/AC.61/7.)

Seminar on Computer-related Aspects of Population and Housing Censuses (Belgrade, 5–9 October 1987)

The Seminar was held in Belgrade at the invitation of the Government of Yugoslavia. It reviewed national experiences in the use of specialized software for the processing of census data, and discussed in detail various aspects of census data processing (geo-coding; data capture; data editing and imputation techniques and programs; data storage; data dissemination procedures and decentralization of census data processing), as well as the problems raised by the use of registers to supplement or replace census questionnaires. (Report of the Seminar: CES/SEM.21/2.)

Consultation between countries participating in the European Comparison Programme (Vienna, 27–30 October 1987)

The consultation had been convened to discuss the results for 1985 of the European Comparison Programme (ECP) within the United Nations International Comparisons Project. In addition to the review of the results, participants discussed the outline of the forthcoming report on the 1985 ECP. Considerations regarding the next phase of the European Comparison Programme resulted in suggestions approved by the Conference of European Statisticians. (Report of the consultation: CES/614.)

Thirty-eight session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (Geneva, 7–9 December 1987)

The Conference of European Statisticians and the Island Transport Committee had convened the Working Party on Transport Statistics jointly. The present session agreed on various issues of methodological development aiming at the harmonization and reconciliation of transport statistics. Views were exchanged on recent developments in the field of statistics on the transport of dangerous goods. The session also discussed a number of problems regarding statistics of road traffic accidents. (Report of the session: CES/AC.62/12.)

Work Session on Manpower Statistics (Geneva, 7–9 December 1987)

This work session was convened jointly with the International Labour Organisation to review progress in the development of a Labour Accounting System

(LAS). The participants agreed on various types of work to be undertaken at both conceptual level and the practical level. Work of the former type would primarily be the responsibility of intergovernmental organizations, and is expected to aim at devising a labour accounting system where employers and posts would be the units on the demand side, households and persons would be the units on the supply side and jobs would constitute the link between supply and demand. Work of the latter type would primarily be the responsibility of countries, and is to cover such issues as estimation problems and consistency in the data. (Report of the meeting: CES/617.)

Publication of “Recommendations for the 1990 Censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region”

This set of recommendations was developed for population and housing censuses in countries in Europe and North America during the 1985–1994 period. The recommendations include a range of topics of basic importance for which data are to be collected, together with definitions, classifications and tabulations for these topics. The recommendations also contain similar material relating to a list of other useful topics which countries might wish to include in their next census, and specifications for a related tabulation programme. The publication may be ordered from the United Nations Sales Section in Geneva or New York (Sales No. E.87.II.E.38).