

# Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

## **Consultation of the European Comparison Programme within the ICP (Vienna, 21–24 October 1991)**

The consultation discussed the terms of the 1990 round of the European Comparison Programme, including a number of methodological issues connected with the present and future work of the Comparison Programme (Report of the consultation: CES/715).

## **Work session on statistical data editing (Geneva, 28–31 October 1991)**

The work session considered methods of automated coding, new technologies in data editing and the impact of data editing on the quality of data. The participants exchanged information and experiences in data editing methods, techniques and software being used in individual countries (Conclusions of work session: CES/712).

## **Consultation on the development of a geographic information system for the Baltic drainage basin – Baltic GIS – (Geneva, 7 November 1991)**

Eight institutions involved in international environmental data collection and dissemination met to coordinate their work on a Baltic GIS. The consultation concentrated on the clarification of organizational questions in the future work of the project (Conclusions of the consultation: CES/713).

## **Fifth Steering Committee of the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 (SCP-2) (Bratislava 13–15 November 1991)**

The meeting considered the status of the preparation of all project final outputs and conditions of their future maintenance. The final report on activities of the SCP-2 was adopted. The preparation of the Transition Project on Applied Statistical Computing for the Fifth UNDP Regional Programming Cycle was discussed (Report ECE/UNDP/SCP-2/SC-5).

**Joint ECE/ILO meeting on consumer price indices (Geneva, 18–21 November 1991)**

The meeting discussed various methodological issues regarding the calculation of consumer price indices and defined topics for discussion at the next joint meeting in 1993/1994 (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.49/33).

**Working Party on Transport Statistics (Geneva, 25–27 November 1991)**

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 transport data. It considered new methodologies for data collection in the framework of the 5-yearly E-Road Traffic Censuses and decided on a new programme for the collection and publication of road traffic accident statistics by the ECE.

**Work session on statistical metadata (Geneva, 26–28 November 1991)**

The work session studied approaches to the design of metainformation systems in individual countries with special attention to those under transition. Proposals for the Reference Model on Standardization on Statistical Computing and a Pilot Metainformation System were discussed. Preparation of an inventory of standards for statistical metadata was considered (Conclusion of work session: CES/714).

**Meeting on Water Quality Statistics (Geneva, 9–12 December 1991)**

The meeting reviewed the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Ecological Freshwater Quality on the basis of the results obtained from tests. The meeting agreed upon the final classification which will be submitted for approval to the 1992 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. Future work concentrates on the development of a corresponding classification for Ecological Marine Water Quality (Report of the meeting: CES/AC.56/36).

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics – IWG.AGRI – (Geneva, 11 December 1991)**

The IWG.AGRI discussed work on coordination of data collection procedures for food and agricultural statistics of four international organizations: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Commission of the European Community (Eurostat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD). It was decided to prepare a compilation of methodologies of different international organizations in one handy publication to clarify differences and to harmonize them to the extent possible. The meeting decided to start with the production area of agricultural statistics – that is, land use and crop output, livestock numbers and livestock output. The consultation also discussed the possibility of organizing a workshop for experts from transition countries to help them with the preparation of agricultural censuses.

#### **Task Force meeting on environmental accounting (Geneva, 13 December 1991)**

The Conference of European Statisticians decided at its 1991 plenary session to initiate work in this field. The meeting was convened to recommend detailed steps to be undertaken in a pilot study (till 1995) during which the possible scope of the work by the Conference ought to be clarified. It was recommended to develop accounts for the issues of (i) nutrients and the environment, and (ii) changes of land cover and land use (Report of the Task Force: CES/717).

#### **Work Session on Economic Statistics of the Environment (Geneva, 16–18 December 1991)**

The work session agreed upon the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Facilities and Expenditures. The draft classification will be used, *inter alia*, as an input to the development of a single international classification in this field. The work session recommended that the relevant international organizations make all the necessary preparations for the common work.

#### **Publication of the “Guide to the Compilation of Transport Statistics in Market Economies”**

The ECE secretariat prepared the “Guide” for use by experts in transport statistics working in transition countries. The publication contains relevant material prepared for the Working Party on Transport Statistics. Copies of the “Guide” can be obtained from the ECE secretariat (Statistical Division).

#### **Publication of the “Readings on food and agricultural statistics for use in market economies”**

This publication has been produced by the ECE secretariat to assist central and east European countries in overcoming transition problems in the field of food and agricultural statistics. The ECE/FAO Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe felt that a review and reissuance of suitable methodological papers prepared for and discussed at its past meetings might assist these countries in their efforts to design new and effective statistical methods and tools in this area.