

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

Seminar on integrated statistical information systems (ISIS '92), Bratislava, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 14–18 May 1992

The Seminar was invited to Bratislava. It discussed issues such as common user interfaces to statistical databases, geographical information systems (GIS), techniques for archiving and disseminating large amounts of data, EDP applications for business registers, and EDI for statistics. The future work was specified and the Seminar recommended inter-alia to pay special attention to the introduction of GIS to the statistical production process. (Report of the seminar: CES/SEM.31/2.)

CES Plenary Session (15–19 June 1992)

The Conference of European Statisticians held its fortieth plenary session. In addition to the review of activities of the current work programme, it considered experiences from the 1990 round of population censuses. The review of ECE's statistical publications was a further item for detailed assessment. The Conference concluded its session with a revision and adaptation of its work programme for the coming two years. (Report of the session: Document ECE/CES/40.)

Work session on quality of environment statistics (Geneva, 7–8 September 1992)

The ongoing problems with the improvement of the quality of environment statistics gave rise to this work session. The participating experts analyzed the reasons for insufficient quality and indicated how they see remedial actions. (Report of the session: Document CES/751.)

Work session on specific methodological issues of environment statistics (Lisbon, 14–17 September 1992)

The work session was invited to Portugal. It discussed issues of the presentation, dissemination and storage of environment statistics; approaches to the collection of statistics for particular types of environmental information; questions of the collection of environmental data through sampling and other procedures; and

problems of statistics on chemicals from an environmental point of view. (Report of the session: Document CES/752.)

Work session on statistical metadata (METIS), Geneva, 28 September–1 October 1992

The work session aimed at preparing methodological recommendations for design and implementation of statistical metainformation systems (SMSs). It discussed proposals for a generic model of statistical indicators, how to organize SMSs in statistical offices, and decided to continue this work. In addition, future work will concentrate on the development of a common terminology for METIS, the elaboration of a formal language for the description of statistical metadata, and the preparation of an inventory of international standards for the representation of statistical data and metadata. (Conclusions: CES/753.)

Seminar for statistical offices of Mediterranean countries (Palermo, 13–15 October 1992)

The Seminar had been convened by the Conference in response to a respective suggestion formulated by the CSCE meeting of Palma de Mallorca, 1990. The Mediterranean statistical offices, whether from ECE member countries or not, had been invited. The Seminar was convened for a professional discussion of the areas of environment statistics, tourism statistics and migration statistics. The discussion of the problems encountered commonly in these fields of activity resulted in a substantial proposal for joint follow-up work. (Report of the Seminar: Document CES/SEM.32/3.)

Task Force meeting on physical environmental accounting (Geneva, 19–20 October 1992)

The Conference of European Statisticians had decided in June 1992 to launch a pilot project aiming at the development of physical environmental accounts in two areas: land use/cover and nutrients in the environment. The pilot project will be undertaken by twelve participating countries, as a joint effort. The Task Force meeting served to agree on aspects of the common approach and on organizational matters. (Report of the meeting: Document CES/754.)

Work session on survey processing, Stockholm, Sweden, 19–21 October 1992

The work session's aim was to exchange experiences and to suggest future cooperation in the light of new technological environments in the field of survey processing. It focused its considerations on problems related to the introduction of microcomputers into statistical survey processing, in particular for the dissemination of statistical information. The next topic of the work session will cover GIS for the different phases of the statistical production process.