

Miscellany

Planned work by the Conference of European Statisticians in the field of social and demographic statistics, 1993–1996

The programme of work of the UN/ECE Conference of European Statisticians in the field of social and demographic statistics consists of projects in the following fields: international migration statistics; population and housing censuses; statistics on women; housing, building and related statistics; demographic projections; labour statistics; fertility surveys; health statistics; education statistics; cultural statistics; social indicators; registers and administrative records in social and demographic fields; and methodological problems and issues in social and demographic fields. The resource base available to the conference's secretariat is too small to enable work in all these projects to be undertaken in the same period, and therefore, only some of the projects are "active" at any given point in time.

During the course of the next few years, work will focus primarily on the first four fields listed above. A brief description of the planned work in each of these fields is given below.

In the field of *international migration statistics*, annual origin-destination matrices will be produced showing the flows of immigrants and emigrants among the 53 ECE member countries and between these countries and selected other countries. In the past, these selected other countries were comprised of Australia and New Zealand, but beginning with the matrices for the 1992 migration flows which are currently in production, they are being extended to include non-ECE member states bordering the Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia). In addition to this activity, in 1993/94 the secretariat will also produce a special publication on international migration for countries in the UN/ECE region. The publication will contain basic historical tables on immigration and emigration for all countries in the region which provided data for inclusion in the publication, as well as brief descriptions of the data sources, methods and definitions used.

In the field of *population and housing censuses*, work will be initiated in the autumn of 1993 on the preparation of a new set of recommendations for countries in the UN/ECE region to use in planning the content of the next census that they will take in or around the year 2000. The recommendations provide advice to member countries not only on the topics to be included in their census, but also on the recommended definitions and classifications to be used and on the recommended tabulations to be published. The work in this first stage will consist of sending a questionnaire to countries to determine the extent to which they complied with the current set of recommendations in conducting their most recent census, what types of

difficulties they experienced in applying the existing set of recommendations, and whether they would like to have any changes made to the new set of recommendations. The secretariat will use the responses received as a basis for the preparation of a new draft set of recommendations, which countries will review in detail at meetings convened by the conference in 1995 (on population censuses) and 1996 (on housing censuses). Current plans also call for member countries to use these meetings as the basis for introducing any additional types of changes they want to have made to the draft, so that the final draft can be submitted to the conference for approval at its 1997 plenary session.

In the field of *statistics of women*, work is planned on the preparation and production of a special publication on statistics of women in countries in the UN/ECE region. The publication is planned to be produced as an input to the Fourth World Conference on Women which will be held in Beijing in 1995, and it is to be produced in cooperation with Statistics Sweden and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). At present it is envisaged that the publication will contain numerous indicators that characterize the similarities between women and men and also between different groups of women in countries in the UN/ECE region. The production of the publication is conditional, however, upon sufficient extra-budgetary funds becoming available to cover its development and production costs.

Two types of activities are planned in the field of *housing statistics*. The first is the regular production of the "Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe", in which current statistics on housing and housing construction for countries in Europe and North America are published annually. The second activity is the publication in the autumn of 1993 of a new set of regional recommendations on current statistics of housing and building for countries in the UN/ECE region. The new set of regional recommendations was adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians at its 1993 plenary session, and it replaces the earlier set of recommendations that the conference had adopted in the mid-1960s. In addition to containing improved and updated definitions and classifications in the housing and construction fields, the new set of recommendations has been expanded to provide guidance to countries on new types of statistics to be collected and published relating to housing improvements, repairs and maintenance and to distributional aspects of housing.

In addition to the more substantive types of activities outlined above, in the next two years the secretariat will also organize meetings convened by the conference in the following fields: costing aspects of population and housing censuses (in December 1993); demographic projections (with Eurostat, in May 1994); health statistics (with WHO, in May 1994); and meetings on education statistics (with UNESCO), on population censuses (with Eurostat), on statistics of women (with INSTRAW), and on the use of registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics (all in 1994/95).

Readers desiring additional information on any of these activities are invited to contact the Statistical Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.