

Recent work of the Conference of European Statisticians

1. Seminar on the role and functions of statistical services in the overall information system of a country (Paris, 8–12 September 1986)

The Government of France hosted the Seminar, which was concerned with problems facing the executive heads of national statistical offices. The topics on the agenda related to the functions of statistical services in diversified information systems, co-operation and conflict between statistical offices and other administrations, technical links between different information systems, and the effects of integrated information systems on the relationships between users and producers of statistics. The Seminar enabled the identification of many commonalities in the broad problems with which heads of statistical offices are faced, independently of the general administrative system in which they may be operating. (Report of the Seminar: CES/SEM.20/3.)

2. Meeting on census aspects of statistics of households and families (Geneva, 22–24 September 1986)

The definitions and classifications of households and families were reviewed for the purposes of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in the ECE region. New classifications of households, families and related variables were drawn up. The usage of automated coding for household and family statistics and problems related to extra-household kinship relations were also discussed. (Report of the meeting: CES/503.)

3. Meeting on health statistics (Geneva, 20–23 October 1986)

This meeting was convened jointly by the Conference of European Statisticians and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The participants reviewed the results of the study of the possibility of adapting the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps for use in household surveys. They also considered the preparation of a set of indicators related to the WHO regional strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000. Modes of payments to physicians and hospitals and their treatment in health accounts were discussed, as was the progress achieved by intergovernmental organizations in the field of health accounts. The meeting reviewed methodological problems in calculating indi-

cators of the performance of health services and national experiences in setting up and utilizing information systems for the planning, management and evaluation of health services. (Report: CES/AC.36/41; EURO/ICP/HST/116/41.)

4. Consultation between countries in Group II of the European Comparison Programme (Vienna, 2–24 October 1986)

The consultation had been convened to discuss the work programme of the European Comparison Programme within the UN international Comparison Project. Countries participating in Group II (Austria, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia) discussed, together with representatives of interested international organizations, the outcome of recent data compilation and collection. On that basis they reviewed the programme of future work until the finalization of the comparison, including the linkage of results with those for Group I countries and with the world programme. (Report of the consultation: CES/597.)