5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics

5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles, and role of official statistics (EFTA)

Institutional framework of EFTA Statistical cooperation

• The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental organisation for the promotion of free trade and economic integration to benefit its four Member States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Since the beginning of the 90s, EFTA has progressively developed a statistical cooperation policy with Eurostat.
• For Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, statistical cooperation with Eurostat is provided for in the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) which gathers the 3 EFTA countries and the 27 EU Member States into a single market.
• Statistical Cooperation between Switzerland and Eurostat is governed by a bilateral agreement.

Objective of EFTA Statistical Cooperation

The EFTA Statistical Office (ESO) was created as a liaison office between Eurostat and the EFTA national statistical institutes. ESO's main objective is to promote the full inclusion of the EFTA States in the European Statistical System (ESS), and thus provide harmonised and comparable statistics supporting the general cooperation process between EFTA and the EU within and outside the EEA Agreement. The cooperation also entails technical cooperation programmes with third countries and training of European statisticians. ESO is located on the premises of Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, in Luxembourg.

5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles, role and organisation of official statistics (Eurostat)

Theme 8.04 - Management of legal bases

Fields of activities covered by the theme

Activities to ensure the application and coherence of statistical legislation, contribution to relevant Commission-wide reporting requirements and relations with European Parliament and the Council on legislative matters.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Ensure an efficient development, production and dissemination of European statistics; establish guiding principles for future statistical legislation.
• Amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics and Commission Decision 97/281/EC on the role of Eurostat.

5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles, role and organisation of official statistics (OECD)

OECD Enlargement

Purpose

1. Coordinate reviews of the statistical system and statistics of the Russian Federation in order to assist Council in taking an informed decision on whether to invite the Russian Federation to accede to the OECD Convention and become a Member. Consolidate information on the Russian Legal and Institutional framework for statistics, collect and review data and metadata from Russian statistical authorities in order to support the examination of economic and other policies by the OECD Committees.

2. Improve and expand the statistical co-operation with the five countries participating in the Enhanced Engagement programme (Brazil, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa). Conduct light assessment reviews of data and metadata based on a standard set of basic OECD statistical requirements and encourage and assist EE countries to bring their statistics in line with coverage, quality and comparability of OECD member statistics. Coordinate data and metadata collection for Enhanced Engaged countries with other OECD Directorates.

3. Coordinate the development of statistics for G20 countries or other non-members of relevance for the organisation.

Objectives and outputs

This activity is to support the Committee on Statistics in its evaluation of the statistical system and statistics of the Russian Federation, a country selected for possible membership in the OECD. To help integrate data for the candidate countries and enhanced engagement countries in the Organisation's reporting and information systems.

The Enlargement Activity will also facilitate exchanges with the "enhanced engagement" (EE) countries in order to improve our understanding of their statistical legal and institutional framework for statistics and their statistical programmes, develop specific statistical relationships with each of the EE countries, and co-ordinate the development of working level statistical projects involving EE countries and OECD Members.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

Co-ordination of the development of statistics for G20 or other new areas, continue to promote enhanced statistical co-operation with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Africa and with Argentina and Saudi Arabia as members of the G20.

5.2 Statistical programmes, and coordination within statistical systems (ECB)

• Implement the European System of Central Banks's annual statistical work programme for European statistics, which focus on the high-priority items identified in the medium-term work programme for the ECB's statistical function (2009-2012), as described in the ECB's website.

• The statistical activities are coordinated by the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and its working groups on external statistics, euro area accounts, general economic statistics, government finance statistics, monetary and financial statistics, and statistical information systems as well as the related business coordination groups and task forces.

• Contribute substantially to the work of the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB), particularly concerning the excessive deficit procedure statistics.

• Co-ordinate the ESCB statistical activities and cooperate with Eurostat and other international organisations to improve the quality of European statistics.

• Provide statistical support to the European Systemic Risk Board, responsible for macro-prudential oversight of the financial system within the new European financial supervisory architecture established in the European Union up from 1 January 2011.

• Participate, as member of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics in the development and implementation of the Action Plan on Statistics supported by the finance ministers and central bank governors of the G20. This action plan contains timetables for the implementation of 20 recommendations on how to address the measurement of risks in the financial sector, international financial linkages and the vulnerability of economies to shocks, as well as the communication of official statistics.

• Participate in the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (also as a member of the Executive) in the exchange of views amongst central bank economists, statisticians and policy-makers of statistical issues of interest to central banks. Recent activities include data initiatives related to financial stability and initiatives to address data gaps revealed by the financial crisis.

5.2 Statistical programmes, and coordination within statistical systems (EFTA)

Annual European Economic Area (EEA) statistical programme

A specific EEA annual statistical programme is developed every year by the EFTA Statistical Office in consultation with the EFTA National Statistical Institutes. The EEA annual statistical programme is based on a subset of, and in parallel with the annual statistical programme elaborated by the European Commission.

Switzerland/EU annual statistical programme

A specific annual statistical programme is drawn up every year in the framework of the agreement in the field of statistics between Switzerland and the EU.

5.2 Statistical programmes, coordination within statistical systems (Eurostat)

Theme 6.01 - Quality, evaluation, statistical coordination and classifications

Fields of activities covered by the theme

• Coordination of quality aspects within the production of European statistics and contribute to the revision and extension of the existing quality framework in the ESS to better fit the requirements laid done in Commission Communication on the production method of EU statistics.
• Monitoring and promoting the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP).
• Provision of guidelines for the implementation of the ESS quality assurance framework for statistical processes and outputs.
• Mid term and ex-post evaluation of Community Statistical programs.
• Update and maintenance of the Eurostat's metadata server (RAMON), which makes available statistical classifications and the relevant correspondence tables, standard code lists, statistical concepts and definitions, legal acts pertaining to statistics and methodological manuals.

• Development, updating and implementation of a harmonised set of central statistical classifications such as the European Classification of Economic Activities (NACE), the Statistical Classification of Products by Activities (CPA), the International Standard Classification on Occupations (ISCO), the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and the Combined Nomenclature (CN) of commodities and the Geonomenclature of countries for the European Statistical System.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION

• Coordinated implementation of ISCED 2011 including the updating of legal acts to the new classification.

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Manage and disseminate methodological metadata.
• Coordinated implementation of ISCO 08.
• Have an ESeC (European Socio-economic Classification) classification exclusively based on core variables to allow for an implementation in all social surveys - Study the possibility of providing more precise results from the LFS for the classification with non-core existent variables.
• Update and maintain the CN, if necessary - Intrastat and related products (self-explanatory texts, correlation tables etc.) as well as the Geonomenclature. Link to the classification for trade in services.
• Quality assurance of and participation in the preparation of Q2012.
• Continue workon the ESS Quality Assurance Framework, developed by the Sponsorship on Quality.
• Providing guidance to production units concerning the implementation of ESQRS (ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure) and ESMS (Euro-SDMX Metadata Structure) quality reporting guidelines and setting standards across the ESS for quality reporting.
• Undertake actions aimed at improving compliance with the Code of Practice.
• Undertake a new cycle of quality assessments with production units, based on the experiences and lessons learned from the 2008-2011 cycle.
• Report to the EP and Council describing the evaluation of the CSP 2008-2012 and recommendation to follow.

Theme 8.03 - Management and statistical programmes

Fields of activities covered by the theme

• Strategic management;
• Management support;
• Internal control;
• Annual and multi-annual programmes;
• Administrative simplification and response burden reduction.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Preparation of Annual Activity Report (AAR) and all related issues (e.g. Déclaration d'Assurance, relations with Court of Auditors, synthesis report, ...);
• Project and process management support;
• Commission's Statistical Annual Work Programme including the priority setting;
• Contributions to the Action Programme for reducing administrative burdens in the EU;
• Preparation of the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017;
• Internal Control Standards Assessment.

5.2 Statistical programmes, coordination within statistical systems (UN Population Division)

The Population Division participates in the activities of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).
The Population Division organizes the annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration. Through this and other mechanisms, dissemination of migration data and migration estimates are being discussed and coordinated.

5.2 Statistical programmes, priority setting, relationships with users and respondents (CIS-STAT)

Statistical Programme

• The Work Programmes of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS are the main document organizing its activities in the forthcoming year (the Work Programme of CIS-STAT for 2012).

• The structure of the mentioned Work Programmes covers the following kinds of activities: international comparisons programme,

methodological work, economic work, exchange of experience and training of the personnel of national statistical services of the CIS, information and publishing activities, dissemination of information and information and reference services, improvement of computer technology, cooperation with international organizations.

• Considerable part of the works included in the programmes is connected with the International Comparisons Programme, methodological, analytical and information and publishing activities and submission of necessary information to interstate bodies of the CIS, government and economic bodies of the Commonwealth, international organizations, mass media and other users. Of high priority in the Work Programme for 2012 are the works connected with international comparisons of the GDP of the CIS countries for 2011 in the framework of the Global round of ICP.

According to the programme of international comparisons in 2012 it is planned to conduct two meetings of the CIS countries specialists: one meeting on the issues of verification and reconciliation of data on the prices for investment commodities-representatives, including construction objects and another meeting on the issues of verification and reconciliation of data on the prices for consumer commodities-representatives purchased by households.

The Work Programme for 2012 includes high priority work on the forecast of production, "visible consumption", imports and exports of selected kinds of products in the countries of the Commonwealth for 2013 in the conditions of the free trade zone (jointly with the Executive Committee of the CIS).

Envisaged in the Work Programme is a number of works connected with *forecast estimates:*

1) Improvement of the methodology of forecasting the growth rates of the main macroeconomic indicators on the basis of new approaches in the field of forecasting used in the world practice.

2) Maintenance of the database for forecast estimates of the main macroeconomic indicators growth rates by CIS countries.

3) Preparation of analytic papers on the following themes:

• Actual trends of GDP and consumer prices growth in 2011 in the Commonwealth countries in comparison with the forecast trends;
• Review of the current economic situation in the world (including CIS countries) and preliminary forecasts of development in the nearest perspectives (according to the materials of international organizations);
• Forecast estimates of GDP and consumer prices growth as an average for the world and most important regional amalgamations of the countries of the world (including CIS countries) for 2012;
• Forecasts of the socio-economic development of the CIS countries in the nearest several years (according to the materials of mid-term programmes of the development of economy of the CIS countries and forecasts of CIS-STAT);
• Forecast estimates of the rates of changes of main macroeconomic indicators of the CIS countries for the period 2012-2013.

4) Collection of information for CIS countries on the forecasts of the main indicators for the period 2012-2013, developed by governmental bodies of the countries (ministries of economy, finances, central banks, etc.), programmes of economy development for mid-term and long-term perspective and their adjustments during 2012 (from Internet and other sources).

5) Collection of analytic and statistical materials of the UN, IMF, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, OECD, Eurostat and other international organizations on the trends of the development of the economy of the world, regional amalgamations and selected countries of the world, on general perspectives of their development for the coming years, on forecasts of growth rates of the main macroeconomic indicators of the countries of the world (including CIS countries) for the period 2012-2013 and on their adjustments during 2012 (from Internet and other sources).

In pursuance of the decision of the Council of the Heads of Governments of the CIS of November 19, 2010 on the main target macroeconomic indicators of the development of economy of the CIS countries, CIS-STAT carries out monitoring of main macroeconomic indicators illustrating socio-economic situation, level and dynamics of economic development, degree of economic integration of the CIS countries. This work is carried out each year.

Apart from that, the Work Programme includes preparation of the materials of monitoring indicators of quality of life of population in the Commonwealth countries.

In 2012 publication of brief results of 2010 round of population censuses in the CIS countries will be continued.

The Work Programme envisages as well the upgrading of qualification of the personnel of the CIS national statistical services on most important divisions of economic statistics: system of national accounts, statistics of prices, finances, balance of payments, etc.

In 2012 the work will be continued on the implementation of the project "Programme of Training of Personnel by CIS-STAT", financed by the World Bank. This project is implemented on the basis of Higher School of Economics.

5.2 Statistical programmes, priority setting, relationships with users and respondents (ILO)

Statistical Policy

• The ILO Department of Statistic was established in May 2009, which replaced the former ILO Bureau of Statistics, and is responsible, inter alia, for compiling and making available in a timely manner ILO statistics on the four pillars of Decent Work. Besides, it is responsible of coordinating the international standards setting of labour and decent work statistics and for hosting the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The compilation, quality control and dissemination of ILO statistical information is now centrally managed and coordinated by the Department of Statistics. All statistical methodologies and databases carried out by different units within sectors and regions are coordinated by the Department of Statistics. All units, regions and sectors are requested to seek technical clearance from the Department of Statistics before disseminating and publishing global and regional statistical data.

• The Department defines and implements a statistical capacity-building programme for the Office and its constituents.

• The Director of the Department of Statistics serves as the ILO Chief Statistician and is consulted on all matters of data collection, statistical methodologies and major publications and releases of ILO statistical information.

5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices (ECB)

Further implementation of the ECB Statistics Quality framework:

• Monitor and ensure adherence to the quality assurance procedures and quality principles stated in the ECB Statistics Quality Framework (SQF), which guides the statistical function of the ECB. The SQF is fully in line with and builds upon the ESCB's public commitment with respect to its statistical function.

• Revision analysis for general economic statistics based on a vintages database to which revision indicators are applied.

5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices (OECD)

Development and Implementation of the OECD Quality Framework

Purpose

To enhance the quality of OECD statistics, to provide a systematic mechanism for ongoing identification and resolution of quality problems, to increase the transparency of the processes used by the OECD to assure quality, to reinforce the political role of the OECD in the context of an information society.

Objectives and outputs

The framework focuses on improving the quality of data collected, compiled and disseminated by the OECD through an improvement of the Organisation's processes and management, though there will be a positive spillover effect on the quality of data compiled at national level. The framework is composed of four elements: a definition of quality and its dimensions; a procedure for assuring the quality of proposed new statistical activities; a procedure for evaluating the quality of existing statistical activities on a regular basis; and internal quality guidelines covering all phases of the statistical production process.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

Following feedback from users, the Quality Framework and Review has undergone a review to streamline the process and make the focus more quality oriented and to include user input.

Following agreement of a timetable by the Statistical Directors group anumber of Quality Reviews of OECD Statistical Activities will be carried out during 2012.

5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices (UNESCO)

Data Quality

The UIS has made improving data quality a major component of its current work programme, and systematically measures and reports on a key set of indicators aimed to assess the quality of its survey activities and the content of the international statistical database. In particular, the UIS Quality Monitoring and Reporting Framework aligns UIS strategic objectives to improve the timeliness and completeness of its data with a key set of performance indicators.

The Insitute is working to improve the efficiency of its data collection and dissemination through the introduction on new statistical tools which support these processes more closely.

Priority objectives beyond 2012:

• Improve the relevance of the current quality reports for all UIS surveys;
• Improve the transparency of UIS data collection, processing and dissemination;
• Improve statistical systems;
• Improve the dissemination of UIS statistical products.

5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices (World Bank)

Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)

• The World Bank has been working with the IMF on the Socio-demographic and Poverty modules of the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF). The framework provides countries with a flexible structure for the qualitative assessment of various aspects of the statistical environment and infrastructure in which the data are collected, processed, and disseminated. It also identifies areas requiring technical assistance. The income poverty and education modules have been completed. Modules for health and population are under development.

5.4 Management and development of human resources (ECB)

• Continue organising training activities on statistics for staff of the ECB, the National Central Banks of the European Union and to a limited extent for other central banks. The topics relate to the ECB relevant statistical fields (e.g. monetary and financial statistics; balance of payments and international investment position statistics; financial accounts; statistical data exchange and SDMX standards, etc.).

5.4 Management and development of human resources (EFTA)

European Statistical Training Programme

EFTA attaches great importance to quality and comparability of European statistics and therefore supports Eurostat in the design and implementation of an ambitious European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). In 2012, the EFTA Secretariat will fund the organisation of three ESTP courses respectively on Geographic Information Systems (Norway), User-friendly dissemination of statistics (Norway), and Data analysis and data modelling (Switzerland). These courses are provided by EFTA National Statistical Institutes and open for participation of statisticians from EFTA and EU Member States. In return, EFTA statisticians will be invited to participate in all ESTP courses supported and financed by the European Commission (Eurostat). Other applicants may be admitted to the courses depending on the availability of places.

5.4 Management and development of human resources (Eurostat)

Theme 6.02 Statistical training

Fields of activities covered by the theme

Conception and implementation of Eurostat's learning and development strategy for statistical training in the ESS (the ESS Learning and Development Framework (the LDF)) aiming at:

• Improving the overall quality of European statistics;
• Raising the qualification of statisticians in the ESS in order to promote their independence in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice;
• Encouraging both theoretical and practical learning and development;
• Encouraging the exchange of best practices, know how and experience;
• Supporting the implementation of the reengineering of the statistical production processes in the ESS and the required adapted skills and competence needs;
• Providing new alternative learning and development opportunities beyond traditional training;
• Definition of appropriate set up of a European Master's in Official Statistics.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Establish annual ESTP (European Statistical Training Programme): ESTP Annual Catalogue 2013;
• Implementation of the ESS-LDF (European Statistical System - Learning and Development Framework) projects on e-learning, interactive platform, and competences;
• VIP Project: Study within the framework of the project EMOS (European Master in Official Statistics).

5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on human resources management and training in national statistical offices. In 2012, following a decision of the CES Bureau, UNECE will organize a meeting to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and the use of staff surveys. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw more attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

Work Session on Human Resources Management and Training, Budapest, 5-7 September.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (CIS-STAT)

Electronic exchange of statistical information

Ongoing work:

• Collection and processing of monthly, quarterly and yearly statistical data, supplied to CIS-STAT by Commonwealth countries' national statistical services, is carried out in accordance with the coordinated schedule by electronic mail over the Internet in the form of standardized questionnaires incorporating 220 Excel-format tables.

• Verification of the coming information including its comparison on the sites of the national statistical services; collection of missing information from the sites of statistical services of the foreign countries, including the sites of international statistical organizations.

New activities:

In 2012 work will continue on improving the electronic exchange of statistical information with national statistical services and international organizations.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (Eurostat)

Theme 6.03 - IT support for statistical production

Fields of activities covered by the theme

• Functional studies / feasibility studies for sector and horizontal projects;
• Maintenance of existing statistical production systems;
• Harmonisation, consolidation and reengineering of existing statistical production systems;
• Enhancing functionalities of IT components used in the statistical production;
• Maintenance and improvement of the database systems used for dissemination;
• Interfacing common building blocks into existing production systems;
• Participation in the implementation of Joint ESS Strategy on the production method of EU statistics by identifying best practices across the EU, by stimulating the use of standard tools and by providing IT components usable by Eurostat and Member States.

The main actions are directly linked to the Joint ESS Strategy on the production method of EU statistics as follows:

• The consolidation and improvements of systems target data integration and the creation of data warehouses for cross domain statistics and cost minimisation. (CVD = Cycle de Vie des Données = Data Life Cycle).
• The sharing of data validation tools by the ESS members will reduce the burden of the Member States and Eurostat, and at the same time increase quality through harmonisation of procedures and the use of the same metadata.
• Sponsoring the development of a common reference environment and infrastructure through the ESSNet CORE (COmmon Reference Environment).
• Development of a common reference environment and infrastructure.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Data Life Cycle (CVD): Continue the consolidation of IT systems for statistical production in Eurostat by applying the CVD principles.
• Definition of a common reference environment towards which NSIs can develop. Sharing of production tools within the ESS.

Theme 6.04 - IT standards, tools and services for data exchange in the ESS

Fields of activities covered by the theme

Optimisation of Eurostat interaction with users and partners in the area of data and metadata exchange by the means of:

• Cooperation with international institutions (UN, OECD, IMF, WB and others) on the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard.
• Developing common tools for efficient and secure exchange of statistical data and metadata in the European Statistical System in cooperation with other relevant Commission services, the European System of Central Banks and international organisations.
• Providing standard web services available on Internet for Statistical production process components.
• Standards and software for Eurostat data collection from European Statistical System.
• Re-engineering of the current production processes under way: this concerns the rationalisation of the IT architecture and the introduction of a more interactive production chain on the basis of a solution via a common IT infrastructure.
• Harmonisation through the use of common standards within the ESS, together with process harmonisation through the promotion of methodologies based on common software tools.
• Data collection tools and methods and standardisation for European Statistical System raw data collections.
• Data collection tools and methods and standardisation for Eurostat data and metadata collection from European Statistical System.
• Developing and sponsoring development of a common IT infrastructure, the creation of a shared production and or dissemination environment within ESS, e.g., common reference infrastructure.
• Exchange of common software tools, mostly open source, e.g., SDMX tools.

The actions are aiming at creating of more integrated systems by fully exploiting synergies and economies of scale. The goal is better interaction with ESS partners and better integration of the ESS business. The better integration of the statistical work done in the ESS with the one done in Eurostat will lead to improve efficiency and quality (comparability and timeliness) and to reduce costs by the means of standardisation. Standardisation of methods and IT-tools is one of the cornerstones of the efficiency vision contained in Commission Communication on the production method of EU statistics.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Use the standard software: Single Entry Point for all regular data and metadata transmissions from Member States, based on standardised formats (GESMES, SDMX) where appropriate.
• Data transmission: coordination and promotion activities with Local Coordinator network.
• Data transmission: maintain and improve the IT applications used for the Single Entry Point. Develop reliable IT tools, with improvements in performance and functionality, which are available for all national authorities for transmitting, uploading or transferring data via the Single Entry Point.
• Cooperation on enhancement of SDMX standards and capacity-building related actions.
• Support and implementation actions related to SDMX and GESMES in Eurostat and MS. Implement the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) standards and guidelines for data and metadata exchange, sharing and dissemination between the members of ESS. Put in place more efficient processes for exchange, sharing and dissemination of statistical data and metadata.
• Flexible access to 2011 census data for users. Operational SDMX Hub system for census data, using SDMX standards and architecture.
• Data collection and data exchange in ESS using SDMX architecture for delivering data in the ESS. Develop IT infrastructure for SDMX implementation allowing sharing common IT tools and easier data exchange. IT tools and components to enable the implementation of SDMX within the ESS.
• Implement a single IT environment and services for structural and reference metadata allowing standard access for ESS partners and within Eurostat. Common IT system for metadata management within the ESS, using the SDMX standards and architecture.
• Maintain Open Source Software repository and perform related actions on software sharing.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (ILO)

Statistical Information Collection and Processing

• An important effort will be made to collect and disseminate new statistics and indicators, for short term and also annual data. The new data collection application has been designed following the General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), and included the definition of a new coding framework, including coded metadata and annotations system.

• As regards data collection, electronic questionnaires will be relied upon to a greater extent to collect data on new as well as more traditional indicators. Data received through electronic questionnaires will be automatically uploaded into the database for prompt dissemination. We will also continue to explore the possibilities of joint data collection with other international agencies (Eurostat, OECD, IMF and others), in order to alleviate the reporting burden on countries by similar international questionnaires. The possibility of exchanging data with EUROSTAT and OECD through SDMX already in place for the Short Term Indicators database, will be probably expanded during 2012 for other topics and regions.

• The day to day operations will be improved by means of using a tracking information system for monitoring the evolution of the data through the workflow, thus improving the overall quality of the Department outputs.

• As part of the new information system, all the satellite applications are being migrated from a SAS (Statistical Analysis Software) environment to the new Oracle environment, and the use of the SAS software will be limited to the processing of data for the purpose of data depuration and statistical analysis.

• The Sources & Methods database, comprising detailed information about methodologies used in the data production by the NSI's, will be adapted to conform to the DDI2 standard.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (OECD)

Maintain and support analytical software

Purpose

Maintain and support analytical software.

Objectives and outputs

Maintain and support analytical software.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

ECO data system migration (Fame, Troll --> Prognoz, Eviews, OECD.Stat, MatLab)
TAD pilot study (Troll, Excel, SAS/OR --> Gams, Prognoz)
Promotion of R to replace SAS
Capacity building for "big data" --> e.g. R solution in the cloud
PowerPivot deployment with Office 2010

OECD.Graph

Purpose

OECD.Graph is an Excel add-in that allows authors to easily format Excel graphs according to the OECD Charte Graphique and to produce publication-ready graphic files that do not need further editing by PAC. This provides a significant efficiency gain in the production of graphs in printed publications.

Further development work intent to even more increase efficiency in the publication workflow.

Objectives and outputs

In 2012, developments will concentrate on enhancements requested for new publications, a batch tool for automation purposes and a graph type template library.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

In 2012, developments will concentrate on enhancements requested for new publications, a batch tool for automation purposes and a graph type template library.

Software Toolkit for OECD Statistical Databases (StatWorks/MetaStore)

Purpose

To provide a generic software toolkit for the management of OECD statistical production data and metadata. The StatWorks and MetaStore software provide a common, SQL-based repository for statistical data and metadata, and a set of tools for their management. The applications are improved to be better integrated with each other and with other OECD corporate systems such as the OECD.Stat data warehouse.

Objectives and outputs

The main objective of the StatWorks/MetaStore developments is to modernise the software platforms for the management of OECD statistics in replacing multiple, non-standard systems with a single, generic application. The applications manage the following statistical production processes: initial data and metadata migration, database administration, security management, data and metadata collection, their importing and validation, calculations, their querying and data export.

During 2004 the StatWorks software was implemented as a production application. The software is now used to manage 49 different databases containing 224 datasets across all substantive directorates.

Originally developed by STD, the MetaStore software is being maintained and enhamced since 2008/2009 by ITN. It is used to manage metadata for 150 datasets across all substantive directorates.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

In 2012, development activities will concentrate on consolidating existing features (e.g. export to .Stat), dynamic and advanced calculations, a stepwise merge of MetaStore and StatWorks, more efficient and user-friendly interfaces, consolidated and simplified import systems with new data collection methods (SDMX flows, web surveys, web queries), flexible reports.

Assistance for data base migrations into StatWorks (e.g. ENV datasets, others as appropriate).

Statistical Data & Metadata Exchange (SDMX)

Purpose

SDMX is an international standard for statistical data and metadata exchange and has been established by a consortium including the OECD and a number of other International Organisations (BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, UNSD and the World Bank). The OECD is a member of the SDMX sponsor group and encourages the overall goals of SDMX to facilitate data exchange between organisations and reduce the burden for both data providers (National Statistical Agencies) and data collectors (International Organisations).

Objectives and outputs

Promotion of SDMX as a data exchange standard within STD and other OECD directorates.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

China, India, Russian Federation.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

Increase in countries engaged in SDMX data exchange projects within STD and other directorates. Host SDMX Experts group meeting.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UN Statistics Division)

SDMX

• Collaborates with IMF, Eurostat, BIS, OECD and World Bank on the development of XML data and metadata exchange standards;
• UNSD has fully developed data structure for MDG Indicators, now being used for data and metadata exchange among some of the agencies involved in the MDG monitoring. Training is also being provided to some groups of countries who have expressed the interest in adopting the platform for MDG data exchange.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

In response to demands from Heads of national and international statistical organisations, the UNECE recently established a High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics. This group oversees work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. It coordinates the activities of relevant expert groups in the UNECE region to ensure that they are working towards common goals. This coordination is based on a vision for industrialising the future production and products of official statistics, which was endorsed by the CES in June 2011.

The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on software sharing, and the management of statistical information systems. A wiki platform has been created, containing an inventory of statistical software available for sharing and a facility for benchmarking statistical information technology activities. In 2012, further materials will be developed to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations, and to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. One example, to be finalised in 2012, is a set of guidelines on developing multi-lingual statistical software.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

• Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), Washington D.C., 21-23 May;
• High-level Seminar on Modernization of Statistical Production (tbc), St. Petersburg, 3-5 October.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (World Bank)

Statistical Information Collection and Processing

• The World Bank gathers macroeconomic data and projections at least once a year from its country teams in a process known as the Unified Survey. These data and projections are used for planning and evaluating Bank operations. They underlie work on creditworthiness and risk assessment and they are an important part of the Bank's external publications such as the World Development Indicators, the country and regional At-a-Glance tables, and Global Development Finance. These data are collected in a standardized way using the World Bank's country database system known as the Live Database (LDB). The LDB is an Excel based system which standardizes the management of macroeconomic information by organizing information into separate sheets by topic and utilizing indicator codes, common layouts, and a variety of formatting, calculation, and reporting tools.

• The Development Data Platform (DDP), a web-based statistical data collection and dissemination system has integrated and streamlined time-series data management operations at the Bank, and has established a comprehensive platform to support the statistical data collection and dissemination functions of the Bank. Also, the software can be provided to countries to further the goal of statistical capacity building in these countries. The software developed in this project may be installed in these countries.

• The Data Collection System (DCS), is an internal repository for time series data and metadata collection, validation, processing including aggregation to various regional and income based groupings. It is used internally for a wide variety of socio-economic, financial and other topical indicators. The DCS provides data to the DDP (described above). As a platform, DCS is also provided to other organizations which have similar needs for statistical time series data collection and processing.

• The system has also incorporated micro data from household surveys allowing cross-country comparisons on key indicators by welfare status.

• A web-based system, Data Platform (DP), is part of the DDP suite of products developed to help clients and partners to manage and disseminate their data based on their preferences and needs. It provides a framework for the use and management of quantitative data and their metadata. The system is especially useful for any organization with a need to publish statistical data on the web.

SDMX

• The BIS, ECB, EUROSTAT, IMF, OECD, UN, and the World Bank have set up a partnership to focus on establishing web-based standards for more efficient exchange and sharing of statistical information and metadata, which is called SDMX. As part of this effort the Bank is currently chairing the Sponsor group and actively participating in the SDMX Secretariat activities. The Bank is also a part of the newly formed SDMX Technical working group. In the SDMX Global Conference hosted jointly by the Bank and IMF much headway was made, and as a follow up to the conference, a new SDMX Action plan was drafted creating a roadmap for SDMX until 2015. The Action Plan is available on the web and accessible at the following url (http://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/SDMX-Action-Plan-2011_2015.pdf). The Bank has now capability to accept data in SDMX format and also provides download of the popular WDI database in SDMX-ML format. The Bank also has a SDMX Version 2.1 compatible REST based API for users to query the WDI data.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (CIS-STAT)

Rest of the World-CIS Coordination

• Coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonizing statistical tools with international standards in the areas of the System of National Accounts and economic, demographic and social statistics, and improving methods of processing information from Commonwealth member States.

Materials in preparation are discussed by the CIS-STAT Scientific Council, task forces and ad hoc meetings. The most important are discussed by the Council of Heads of Statistical Services of the CIS. Once finalized, they are circulated as recommendations to national statistical services.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (Eurostat)

Theme 6.08 - Statistical cooperation with countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy

Fields of activities covered by the theme

• Providing technical (statistical) advice to the EU's external action service (EEAS), including EU Delegations in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries;
• Support the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy through provision of statistical data;
• Contribute to the design and implementation of statistical assistance programmes in the ENP East countries;

• Contribute to EU efforts to build statistical capacity within the framework of the MEDSTAT programme of statistical cooperation with the ENP South countries;
• Assisting the ENP South countries in designing their regional strategy for statistics;
• Assisting the ENP countries to gradually align their statistical systems with that of the EU;
• Encouraging the application of best practices from the European Statistical System to be applied in ENP countries through mutual contacts, training, study visits, workshops, seminars, and attendance at meetings;
• Collecting and publishing a range of data from the ENP countries, as an input to the Commission assessment of progress in the countries, and to maintain momentum for harmonisation of data for the region.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Negotiation and follow-up of the implementation of the statistics chapter in the Association Agreements between the EU and the ENP East countries through the provision of input to legal agreements, annual follow up and reporting on progress.
• Assist ENP East countries in developing assistance programmes and projects, promote their funding with the relevant stakeholders, be involved in their implementation through reading reports, reviewing progress and participating in steering committees.
• Collect, validate and process data from the ENP East countries In order to update Eurobase and produce publications on key statistical indicators for ENP-East countries.
• Development of a regional strategy for cooperation with the ENP-South countries beyond the end of MEDSTAT III, so as to reinforce the achievements of the MEDSTAT programmes.
• Collect, validate and process data from the ENP South countries to update Eurobase and produce publications on key statistical indicators for ENP-South countries.
• Support the implementation of the MEDSTAT III programme by giving technical advice on content, experts, work programme to the contracting authority (DG EuropeAid Development and Cooperation).
• Negotiation and follow-up of the implementation of the statistics chapter in the Advanced Status Agreements between the EU and the ENP South countries through the provision of input to Legal Agreements, follow-up of their implementation, reporting on implementation.
• Management of high level seminars, workshops, training courses for European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries on key themes such as classifications, coordination of statistical systems, quality, strategic management, selected statistical topics, the ESS, etc. to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of experience, and encourage capacity building.
• Support other Commission services in the implementation of technical assistance programmes through advice on statistical issues in technical assistance programmes on energy and environment with a view of obtaining statistical data in these areas.
• Assess and monitor the development of the statistical system in the ENP countries through launching and implementing global assessments, reviews and other kinds of assessments for the ENP countries.
• Support the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy through promoting the importance of statistics for European policy purposes (monitoring and design) including the need of support to the NSIs in terms of statistical assistance programmes.

Theme 6.09 - International statistical cooperation

Fields of activities covered by the theme

• Providing advice and expertise to Commission services (in particular the External Relations Directorates-General, and the delegations) and national statistical authorities with respect to European Commission development and cooperation policies (identification, planning, implementation and evaluation of statistical projects or the statistical elements of more wide-ranging development projects) and coordinating Eurostat units' contribution to this work;
• Assisting the European Commission in relations with international organisations and in matters of common statistical interest with non-European regions or countries;
• Advocating and promoting good governance through statistics in the EU's external relations policy;
• Monitoring and coordinating EU efforts to build statistical capacity in countries outside Europe within the framework of international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
• Encouraging the application of ESS best practice in non-EU countries through mutual contacts, training, study visits and attendance at meetings;
• Collecting data on non-EU countries obtained from all available sources for use by Commission services in pursuit of their external relations policies and, subject to agreement with data suppliers, the wider community of users;
• Ensuring that stakeholders are kept adequately informed through efficient communication;
• Representing Eurostat in international organisations;
• Coordinating Eurostat's relations with Higher Income Countries (HIC) and Russia, in particular implementing the EEA agreement in the field of statistics and the agreement with Switzerland on cooperation in the field of statistics.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION

• Change the focus of co-operation in Latin America from a programme-based approach to a looser one based on Memorandums of

Understanding with regional organisations and larger countries in support of the development of national statistical systems of countries by sharing the EU's experience in selected fields of joint priority and promoting horizontal cooperation.
• Fostering Good Practices in the LAC Region: sharing progress and achievements of EU - driven subregional integration statistical projects in the LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) region to enhance cost effectiveness of EU efforts. Preparation of a seminar with UN-ECLAC.
• Modernisation of statistical data transmission in the LAC region: training and technical assistance to develop capacities to use tools for data and metadata transmission by reference to the SDMX standard.
• Analysis and dissemination for water statistics on specific Central Asian countries: increase the capacity of target countries to improve environmental policies trough reliable statistics; to assist the EC in developing programmes on environmental issues for Central Asia on the basis of better water statistics.
• IT tool to support price statistics in developing countries: analyse the possibility to provide support to improve price statistics in developing countries, focusing on IT tools for the establishment, harmonisation and analysis of price statistics.
• Support to the recently created statistical subregional bodies in the ALA region: to share the EU experience in the establishment of RSDS (Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics) in close coordination with PARIS21. (By reference to ASEAN, Andean Community, Central America and Mercosur).

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Support to the statistical capacity of the African Union Statistics Division: in the framework of the EU/Africa Strategic Partnership Eurostat ensure a constant support to the African Union Statistics Division through yearly agreed action plans including different kinds of activities, such as secondment of officials, training, sharing experience, produce joint publications, etc.
• Management of Commission's statistical relations with Asia through the implementation of MoUs: follow-up and implementation of road maps of MoUs with China, India and Kazakhstan, in support of the development of national statistical systems of these countries in areas of joint priority.
• ERETES (Software package for National Accounts); transfer of know-how and upgrading to SNA2008: upgrading in order to allow the production of National Accounts in line with the SNA 2008; maintenance; training of users and trainers, improve the coordination of the User Group.
• DISC database on international statistical cooperation projects: the existing database should be improved mainly through the creation of links to internal and external databases. The feasibility of other links should be studied.
• Analysis and dissemination of third countries data produced outside ESTAT: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and socio-economic indicators analysis.
• Support to the users of the EUROTRACE software: coordination of the User Group and transfer the knowledge towards users; maintenance of the CIRCA dedicated website; training of users and trainers.
• Guide on statistical cooperation extended and updated according to the users' needs and expectations. Coherence between the new modules and the original guide maintained both in English and French and translated into Spanish. User-friendly on line version made available.
• ASTRA - Statistical training in international cooperation through support of NSIs in developing countries by providing a tool to identify training needs.
• Essential System of National Accounts (SNA): methodological support in the context of cooperation; support to the SNA2008 implementation through the preparation of the handbook "Essential SNA".
• Advisory group on international statistical cooperation: advisory group on the co-ordination of EU technical cooperation on statistics with developing countries aiming at increasing coordination of technical assistance, increase synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and contribute to increase aid effectiveness.
• Support to beneficiary countries and/regions in the preparation and implementation of National Plans for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Advocacy material: assist recipient countries/regions to make aware or convince policy makers and funders on the need for increased financial assistance for the implementation NSDS; provide a user-friendly and updated set of NSDS (National Strategies for he Development of Strategies) guidelines; make proposals on guidelines towards costing an NSDS.
• Efficiency and effectiveness of the EU budgetary support instrument in ALA and ACP: assessment of applicable, objective indicators to analyze effectiveness and efficiency of projects for EU Budget Support.
• Implementation of Memorandums of Understanding and other relations with OECD countries and Russia: strengthen relations with OECD countries and Russia, follow up of MoU: to promote coordination and cooperation in statistics-related matters e.g. the production of official statistics, the promotion of best practices and the harnessing of appropriate synergies; organisation of study visits and seminars.
• Statistical cooperation with EFTA: implementation of the EEA Agreement on cooperation in the field of statistics.
• Statistical cooperation with Switzerland: implementation of the Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on cooperation in the field of statistics.
• Working Group on International Relations (IRWG) and coordination of EU position through this group: assistance and support to the ESSC in the area of international relations; increased efficiency in international relations through better communication, coordination and consistent representation. Increased visibility and coordinated EU position.
• Development of the Global Statistical System (GSS): organisation of a seminar jointly with UNSD; organise a conference aiming at sharing common statistical standards and animate a discussion on GSS challenges; organise a seminar on spatial statistics.

Theme 8.05 - Relations with the ESS, inter-institutional and international relations

Fields of activities covered by the theme

• Governance of the European Statistical System (ESS), through the management of the committees that form the core of the cooperation within the European Statistical System, in particular the European Statistical System Committee, the highest-level committee within the ESS representing the producers of European statistics, the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC), providing a stakeholder perspective (users, respondents and producers) on the relevance and priorities of EU statistics as well as the associated costs and resources, and the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB), whose role is to provide an independent overview of the ESS as regards the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice.
• Ensuring efficient co-operation with the Council, the European Parliament, the European System of Central Banks, the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) and the CoR (Committee of the Regions) with regard to the statistical legislative production.

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Provide the Secretariat for ESAC;
• Provide the Secretariat for the ESSC;
• Organise the DGINS Conference, in collaboration with the host country;
• Preparation of the 2013 Eurostat Conference;
• Provide secretariat to ESGAB.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (FAO)

Coordination of International Statistical Work

• FAO leads the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) to identify the statistical needs and develop standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies of the collection and collation of fishery and aquaculture statistics.
• FAO leads the Inter-secretarial Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG).

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (UN Statistics Division)

Secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities

• Coordination of intergovernmental and inter-agency meetings in statistics, serving as secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities. See also: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm and http://unstats.un.org/unsd/workpartner_ccsa.htm.

Facilitator of City Groups

• UNSD is facilitating the work of so-called 'city groups', in order to address issues identified by the Statistical Commission as critical problems. UNSD will continue to encourage countries to actively participate in the discussions of the various groups. It will also disseminate information on the groups and their activities widely. Detailed information on the groups and their activities is available at UN Web page. See also: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/citygroup/index.htm.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region is one of the key tasks of the Conference of European Statisticians. Efficient coordination is important to avoid duplication of work, find synergies, use resources efficiently and reduce burden on national statistical offices. Furthermore, international cooperation is enshrined in the Fundamental Principles of official statistics as an important factor contributing to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

The CES is a body composed of the Heads of the national statistical organizations in the UNECE region, with the participation of Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and South Africa. The major international organizations active in statistics in the UNECE region also participate in the work, such as the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS-STAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, UN Statistical Division (New York) and other UN agencies, etc.

The Conference and its Bureau provide a platform for coordination of international statistical work. There are several mechanisms to ensure the coordination in practice, of which the main ones are the regular meetings of the Conference and its Bureau, the CES seminars exploring the foundational issues of statistical systems and emerging topics, in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas, and the Database of International Statistical Activities. The UNECE Statistical Division provides the secretariat for the Conference, as well as undertakes substantive work mandated by the Conference and its Bureau.

The topics for the CES seminars are selected by the member countries and address issues of current interest to the Heads of national statistical organizations. In 2012, the first seminar will deal with implementing the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. With more diverse sources of official statistics and increasing requirements for evidence-based decision-making, the role of statistical offices has considerably evolved since the Principles were adopted 20 years ago. The seminar will explore how to respond to the new challenges. It will pay special attention to the coordination of national statistical systems which is one of the most difficult Principles to implement in practice. The seminar also responds to a call from the UNSC for regional assessments of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

The second seminar of the Conference in 2012 will deal with challenges in future population and housing censuses. The seminar will focus on issues related to planning the next round of censuses based on lessons learned from the 2010 census round. It will explore how the technological and methodological innovations can make the censuses more efficient and allow the production of high quality data while controlling costs. The seminar will feed into the UN Statistical Commission's analysis of the experiences with the recent censuses.

The CES Bureau will meet twice in 2012 to steer the programme of work of the Conference and ensure that it reflects the priorities of member countries. The international statistical work in two areas will be reviewed in-depth in 2012. The first topic, measuring poverty, is essential for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Achieving international comparability in statistics on poverty has proven challenging due to different definitions and methods of measuring poverty, and the different national poverty lines. The review is expected to result in proposals for follow-up activities to improve work in this area.

The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is banking, insurance and financial statistics. The topic was selected for a review in response to the economic crisis, which exposed data gaps that hinder analysis of stability of the financial sector.

In addition, the three in-depth reviews carried out at the end of 2011 on education statistics, global manufacturing, and household survey methods are expected to lead to follow-up work in 2012.

The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an annually updated Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) as a tool to support the Conference and its Bureau in their coordination function. The database is a compendium of statistical work of international organizations in 2012 within the UNECE region. It is available online to be used by countries and international organizations to foster cooperation and avoid duplication of effort.

5.6 Coordination of international statistical work (OECD)

Co-ordination of OECD Statistical Activities

Purpose

To increase the visibility of statistical activities carried out by the OECD and to coordinate internal OECD statistical activities in order to improve the quality of statistics and the efficiency of the OECD statistical organisation.

Promote inter-agency cooperation and coordinate OECD statistical programmes with Eurostat, ECE, IMF, UN and other organisations with respect to both data collection and the development of international statistical standards.

Objectives and outputs

Further improve international co-operation between OECD member countries, as well as statistical relationships with national statistical offices of non-member countries through the OECD Committee on Statistics, composed of Heads of National Statistical Agencies.

Collaborate with other Directorates of the Organisation, with national data providers and with other international organisations to: reinforce the quality of OECD statistical data and the efficiency of statistical activities across the Organisation; improve data collection and data and metadata coverage for member and non member countries; increase the visibility of OECD statistical work; and contribute to the development of the international statistical system.

Collaborate with other Directorates in the Organisation to improve the consistency of data and metadata collected and disseminated by the OECD through the OECD statistical information system, promote linkages with similar facilities in other international organisations and national agencies, improve efficiency of data and metadata collection, minimise burden and strengthen the value of "OECD statistics".

Develop a better knowledge of legal and institutional framework for statistics in member and non member countries and identify "best practices" to encourage member and non member countries to respect sound, fundamental principles for official statistics.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa.

Databases

OECD statistical programme of work

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

2012 will see continuation of the accession activities with Russia. In addition, coordination with enhanced engagement countries and other non members will be significantly reinforced. Finally, efforts will be made to improve collaboration and advice on statistical activities with OECD policy committees via the Committee on Statistics.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (EFTA)

Technical cooperation

EFTA technical cooperation programmes and activities are governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the EFTA Secretariat and Eurostat. The MoU's overall objective is to avoid gaps or overlapping in technical assistance toward countries where the European Union is also active, through direct involvement of the four EFTA States in statistical programmes run by the European Commission. EFTA's involvement in technical cooperation programmes under the MoU gives priority to countries that have concluded declarations on cooperation or free trade agreements with EFTA. In 2012, support will be mainly granted to economies in transition in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), Western Balkans and Mediterranean regions (Medstat). EFTA cooperation will give priority to global assessments of national statistical systems in light of the revised European Statistics Code of Practice as well as seminars and study visits on socio-economic statistics, applied statistical methods and management of technical assistance in statistics.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (Eurostat)

Theme 6.07 - Statistical cooperation with the candidate and potential candidate countries

Fields of activities covered by the theme

• Preparation of candidate and potential candidate countries for EU membership by aligning their methodologies and practices with the statistical acquis and integrating them into the European Statistical System.
• Inputs to meetings under the structures of the Stabilisation and Association Agreements / European Agreements and inputs to the Commission's annual progress reports and its opinions on countries' applications for EU membership.
• Provision of harmonised statistics covering the candidate and potential candidate countries.
• Screening, negotiations and follow-up of the commitments regarding the statistics chapter and the statistics component of other chapters.
• Assistance to the candidate and potential candidate countries involving the entire cycle for assistance programmes with programming, tendering, implementation and evaluation under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2012

1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION

• Provision of support to population and housing censuses for candidate and potential candidate countries;
• Support regional cooperation in the Western Balkan countries through the organisation of conferences, seminars, events with a regional perspective to foster regional cooperation and understanding.

1.2 ONGOING WORK

• Monitor the statistical systems in candidate countries and potential candidates using different assessment instruments (global assessments, peer reviews, compliance monitoring database, Eurostat annual assessment missions).
• Production and dissemination of statistical data on candidate countries and potential candidates through publications and updating the Eurostat website.
• Coordinate, design, contract, implement and follow-up cooperation programmes for candidate countries and potential candidates to assist candidate countries and potential candidates in aligning their statistical production with the acquis.
• Support the EU enlargement policy through participation in sub-committee meetings under the Accession / European Agreements, following-up on commitments on chapter 18 from the negotiation process, contributing to the annual EU progress reports.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (ILO)

Technical Assistance

• The statistical capabilities of ILO constituents vary, and a considerable upgrading of capacity is needed in many areas. The ILO provides technical support for labour and decent work statistics to member States in the form of technical advice and assistance, training, manuals, and

technical cooperation projects. This assistance is provided under the auspices of the ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes. It is demand-driven, depending on the availability of resources. Requests for assistance may derive from the application of the Labour Statistics Convention 1985 (160).

• Technical assistance is served from the ILO Offices in Budapest, Moscow and, in the case of Mongolia, Bangkok, and by National Coordinators, as well as from the ILO Headquarters in Geneva.

Training Programme of the ILO Department of Statistics

• The ILO Department of Statistics' will maintain its training programme to support:
a) ILO constituents to increase their capacity to produce reliable statistics and labour market information for the best use in effective decision-making, to achieve decent work for all and;
b) to enhance ILO staff knowledge and use of modern statistical methods regarding data collection and analysis so as to optimize their service to member States, to assist them to meet their goals of Decent Work for all.

• The ILO will conduct its annual LMI2 course on "Designing labour force surveys and labour force modules for household surveys". The course in English will take place on 16-20 April 2012 at the ILO Training Center in Turin, Italy. Spanish and French versions of the course are expected to take place at the regional level.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (OECD)

PARIS21 Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

Purpose

PARIS21 is a partnership of national, regional and international statisticians, policy makers, analysts, development professionals and other users and producers of statistics, including civil society. PARIS21's goal is to develop a culture of Management for Development Results.

Objectives and outputs

PARIS21 activities focus on assisting all low-income and lower middle income countries in the design, implementation, and monitoring of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). PARIS21 carries out this work through i) facilitating the co-ordination of stakeholders to better address an evolving agenda, ii) advocating for increased involvement of national stakeholders in statistical development and enhancing the status of statistics in major international initiatives, iii) promoting better-quality and effectively implemented NSDSs, and iv) stimulating increased demand for and better use of data. Co-ordination activites include the annual Partner Report on Support to Statistics, which provides an inventory of global support to statistical development, and the creation of national (country-donor) partnerships to discuss statistical issues. Advocacy activities have included the production of national booklets promoting the importance of statistics in poverty reduction decision-making processes.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Asia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Other, Peru, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

Throughout 2012, PARIS21 and its partners will update and enrich the NSDS guidelines to include best practices collected over the past several years. PARIS21 will also organise two subregional workshops (Central America and South-East Asia) on regional statistical strategies.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (Paris21)

Purpose

The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) is a global partnership of national, regional, and international statisticians, analysts, policy-makers, development professionals, and other users of statistics. The PARIS21 Consortium was established as a global forum and network to promote, influence, and facilitate statistical capacity development and the better use of statistics.

Objectives and outputs

PARIS21's goal is to develop a culture of Management for Development Results. PARIS21 pursues this goal by encouraging and assisting

low-income and lower middle income countries in the design, implementation, monitoring, and resource mobilization of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The PARIS21 Secretariat supports NSDS processes primarily through the following types of activities: (1) facilitating the coordination of stakeholders to better address an evolving agenda, (2) advocating for increased involvement of national stakeholders in statistical development and enhancing the status of statistics in major international initiatives, (3) promoting better-quality and effectively implemented NSDSs, and (4) stimulating increased demand for and better use of data. The PARIS21 Secretariat continues to co-manage and implement with the World Bank and other partners two key statistical programs — the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and the Accelerated Data Program (ADP). The IHSN's objective is to bring survey producers, sponsors, and users together to improve the use of survey data for policy making and monitoring. The ADP assists countries to undertake urgent improvements to produce consistent results for monitoring progress and measuring change in key development indicators, including the MDGs.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (DR), Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Macedonia FYROM, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (FS), Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palestinian Adm. Area, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Main Developments for 2012

General aspects:

In 2012, in collaboration with bilateral, regional, and international partners, PARIS21 will conduct the next round of its "Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS)." The aim of the exercise will be to report on the activities of providers of development cooperation in support of statistical development, with an ultimate objective of facilitating collaboration. In addition, PARIS21 will update the NSDS guidelines, enriching them with experiences gained over the past several years.

Statistical Capacity Building

Ongoing work:
• In 2012, ongoing PARIS21 Secretariat work will involve activities at the national and regional level. The activities related to country support will focus on the facilitation of NSDS implementation, including the establishment of national partnerships of stakeholders around statistics. The national partnership is intended to facilitate a better alignment of external support to the NSDS implementation plan, increased mobilization of resources at the country level, and the use of more efficient and better coordinated funding arrangements for statistical development activities. At the regional level, advocacy workshops will be organised in the Central American and South-East Asian regions to allow countries to share information and benefit from other countries' experiences in statistical development.

Priority objectives:

• The main aim of the PARIS21 partnership is to support implementation of well-designed and well-coordinated national and international statistical programmes, which have adequate funding and are centered on implementing NSDSs which both develop statistical capacity and provide data for immediate priority needs.

New activities:

• In 2012, PARIS21 will be instrumental in implementing a "Busan Action Plan for Statistics" which updates the priorities and work of the 2004 Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics and provides a framework for the development of statistics globally.

Meetings:

PARIS21 Board Meeting
28-30 March 2012, Paris, France

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UN Statistics Division)

Objective

The UN Statistics Division's objective is to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition to routinely collect, compile, store, analyze and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environment fields to produce quality data, including data

disaggregated by sex, for national policymakers and for other users at the national and international levels.

Strategy

To meet the overall objective, UN Statistics Division's capacity building programme consists of providing advisory services, conducting workshops, seminars and conferences, organizing study tours, arranging fellowships and hosting interns and fellows, and maintaining knowledge hubs and toolkits in a number of statistical domains . These domains are i) national statistical system, ii) demographic and social statistics; iii) national accounts, basic economic statistics, trade statistics, industry statistics, economic and social classifications and environmental-economic accounting; iv) environment and energy statistics; v) MDGs statistics and indicators; and vi) geospatial information. The first domain covers activities directly related to the organization of national statistical systems, such as the building of better institutional arrangements, improved legal frameworks, better organizational structure and better management of human resources. The other subject domains are very broadly defined to cover together most of the substantive areas in statistics.

Ongoing work

The main task within the domain of demographic and social statistics will be to continue to assist Member States in conduct of their population and housing censuses and disseminate census results in a timely manner. A project on improving gender statistics will be initiated in 2012. The priorities in other domains are: i) implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), ii) implementation of the revised recommendations in areas of industrial statistics and indices, energy statistics, international classifications, international trade statistics, and tourism statistics; and iii) implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Indicators (FDES) and volume 1 Central Framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). Particular attention will be paid to the quality of statistical information and the development of a generic national quality assurance framework. UNSD also secured donor funding for the improvement of the MDG indicators. Through its regular programme and the donor funded projects UNSD will continue to assist developing countries with capacity development trainings in the areas of MDG indicators, and monitoring of MDGs particularly in view of the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and the post 2015 agenda. The Division is also increasingly providing capacity-building support to member States in the area of geospatial information.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)

Description and objectives

The UNECE aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems of EECCA and South-East European countries to implement international standards and guidelines. A particular attention is paid to promoting the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that provide basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

The UNECE capacity building activities include:

(a) Training workshops;
(b) Global assessments of national statistical systems;
(c) Advisory services provided by the UNECE experts to address country specific needs.

The capacity building activities are carried out in coordination and in partnership with other international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNSD, Eurostat, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), OECD, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), PARIS21, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the World Bank, IMF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

The UNECE, together with Eurostat and EFTA, conducts global assessments (GA) of national statistical systems of EECCA countries. The purpose is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. This helps the national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and the international donors to focus their technical cooperation activities on the identified needs. The GAs conducted in 2010-2011 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine are expected to result in action plans to improve national statistics according to the recommendations. In 2012, GAs are planned to be carried out in Moldova, Belarus and Tajikistan. Some additional countries have indicated their interest in GAs in the coming years.

The UNECE capacity building activities are planned based on the findings of global assessments and the needs of the EECCA countries. In 2012, UNECE will organise sub-regional workshops and advisory services to address current challenges in economic, social and environment statistics, streamlining statistical production and improving the indicators for monitoring the achievement of MDGs. The capacity building will be supported by promoting the exchange of national good practices at sub-regional level, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the establishment of networks of experts.

The Programme Working Group on Statistics of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)[1] meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and coordinate donor activities. The UNECE will work in 2012 on the development and fund-raising of three new

capacity building programmes: on economic statistics, including the implementation of the 2008 SNA; regional migration statistics; and streamlining statistical production of SPECA countries. These projects would complement the ongoing technical cooperation activities in the region.

Meeting to be organized in 2012:

7th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics, Bishkek,1-2 October.

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[1] Member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (World Bank)

Statistical Capacity Building

Ongoing work:

• The World Bank promotes statistical capacity building (SCB) mainly through financial instruments, advisory services, knowledge products, and partnerships. Our activities are centred around the implementation of the Marrakech Action Plans for Statistics (MAPS). Main financial instruments are loans and grants. Lending projects are mostly long term and comprehensive in coverage. The projects typically aim at improved economic and social information for policy making and poverty reduction by strengthening planning, statistical legislations, infrastructure, human resources, data collection, processing, analyzing, archiving, and dissemination. A multi-country lending program, Statistical Capacity Building Program (STATCAP), became operational in 2004 to make investments in statistical development easier and more effective. It is designed to be simple to initiate, plan and operate.

• A $32 million loan under STATCAP for a statistical capacity building program in Ukraine was approved by the Bank's Executive Board in 2004 and is currently being implemented. The loan includes finance for organizational and management reform, development of statistical infrastructure, modernization of computing infrastructure, technical assistance in various areas, and use of economic data in analysis and forecasting. Technical assistance and consulting related components of the project were completed and the ICT component will be completed in 2012. An interim Implementation Completion Report was prepared by the Bank.

• In the Russian Federation as a part of the STATCAP facility a new $50 million Project for Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS 2) became effective in April 2008. The project is now under implementation as a follow up to the STASYS project which was completed in December 2006. For the STASYS 2 Project, the World Bank finances 20% of the above amount to i) enforce further modernization of statistics methodology in compliance with the international standards; ii) strengthen development of modern design and technology for statistical data collection, processing, and dissemination; iii) ensure enhancement of social statistics, and iv) support human resource development in the statistical system.

• A STATCAP project for Tajikistan was approved in 2006, and completed in June 2011. The project was supported by co-financing from DFID and SIDA, as well as in-kind contributions from the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The completion evaluation report conducted by an independent consultant revealed that project achieved all proposed objectives made a significant contribution to the improvement of the Tajik statistical system. These findings were confirmed by the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) prepared by the World Bank.

• A $20 million loan under the STATCAP umbrella for Kazakhstan was approved by the World Bank in March 2011. The main objective of the project is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the national statistical system to provide relevant, timely and reliable data in line with internationally accepted methodology and best practices. The project will upgrade the conceptual, methodological and analytical skills of the Kazakh Agency on Statistics of Republic of Kazakhstan (ASRK) and other data producer and user agencies of the country. The loan agreement was signed in August 2011 and ratified by the Kazakh Parliament in December 2011. The project will become effective before the end of the year and implementation will start in January 2012.

• The World Bank manages a multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB which aims to strengthen the capacity of statistical systems in developing countries. It supports: i) NSDS projects assisting the preparation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and ii) Statistical capacity improvement projects aiming at strengthening the capacity in key priority areas. TFSCB also funds participation of developing country representatives in meetings, seminars and workshops. TFSCB has financed below projects in the region that are under implementation.
- UNECE: Capacity Building Program on New Challenges in Economic Statistics in Central Asia and Eastern European Countries 2009-2011 $355,000
- Turkmenistan: Statistical Capacity Building for Growth and Poverty Reduction $387,500
- Piloting and Preparatory Work for 2011 Armenia Population Census $100,000
- Russia: Strengthening Subnational Capacity for Analysis of Living Conditions $259,000
- Georgia: National Statistics System Development Strategy $280,000
- Georgia: Preparatory Work for 2013 Georgia National Population Census $250,000
- CIS Statistical Committee Training Program $375,000
- Tajikistan: Preparation of the Statistical Master Plan-2 $80,000

- Kyrgyz Republic: Preparation of a New Statistical Master Plan $74,000
- Russian Federation/CIS: The Need to Develop an Integrated System of Household Surveys to Collect Data on International Migration in the CIS States $320,000

• The World Bank Development Grant Facility provided grants to UNECE in the total amount of 950,000 USD to strengthen national capacity to improve gender statistics in Southern and Eastern Europe. These grants fall under the Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics umbrella, and were used to finance the following objectives: i) improve gender sensitivity of National Statistical Systems in order to increase availability, raise quality and improve access to data for developing, monitoring, and evaluating gender policies; and ii) increase capacity of users to utilize statistics for policy making and how to judge the quality and availability of data at the national and regional level.

• The World Bank maintains a web site on Statistical Capacity Building which provides information on the financial instruments, including STATCAP and TFSCB, advisory services, databases, and reference materials available in support of statistical capacity building. See http://www.worldbank.org/data/statcap.

• The World Bank has developed in the last three years the Virtual Statistical System which is an online resource for statisticians and users of statistics with information about how to manage statistical systems and how to make official statistics. The website includes a knowlede base with over 2000 pages of text, a VSS Wiki and VSS discussion groups which allow knowledge exchange all over the world, and the VSS elearning website called Modules for Strengthening Statistics. The site can be found at (www.virtualstatisticalsystem.org and www.statsys.org). The design of the site was an effort of working in partnership with several other international organizations and developed and developing countries.

• The Country Statistical Information Database provides information on national statistical systems useful for assessing statistical capacity and monitoring progress in statistical capacity building in developing countries. The database contains information encompassing various aspects of national statistical systems and operations, such as statistical law, national statistical strategy, statistical practice, censuses and surveys, national statistical agencies and publications, , and World Bank statistical projects. It also includes a country-level composite statistical capacity indicator based on evaluation of countries against a set of criteria in the areas of statistical practice, data collection and indicator availability, consistent with international recommendations. In addition, the database allows for cross-country comparisons of selected indicators. See http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/csid.html.

• The World Bank provides funding to PARIS21 from its development Grant Facility for the implementation of the Accelerated Data Program (ADP), jointly implemented with the World Bank Data Group. The ADP provides support to countries in the areas of microdata documentation, dissemination and preservation. The Russian Federal Service of State Statistics (Rosstat) was introduced to the software and practices promoted by the ADP.

• A web-based tool called the "Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity (BBSC)" has been launched on the World Bank website. The tool will help strengthen the capacity of countries, especially IDA countries, to compile and use statistics with an overall aim of supporting the management of development results. Specifically, the BBSC: i) presents key information on national statistical systems collected from national and international sources, including planning, funding, human resources, census and surveys; ii) assesses countries' statistical capacity in key areas including institutional framework, statistical methodology, source data, data periodicity and timeliness through the use of a composite indicator, checklists, maps and charts; and iii) allows users to provide feedback and updates easily and quickly with interactive features. The BBSC is available online at: http://www.worldbank.org/data/bbsc.