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 Communities, in Luxembourg.

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

OECD Enlargement

Purpose

1. Following the support provided in 2009 to the Committee on Statistics in its evaluation of the statistical programs of four countries selected for possible membership in the OECD (Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia), to ensure the integration of statistics related to these countries in the Organisation's reporting and information systems upon accession and to assist with and monitor improvements to their statistical systems and statistics as required. 2. To co-ordinate reviews of the statistical system and statistics of the Russian Federation (RF) in order to assist Council in taking an informed decision on whether to invite RF to accede to the OECD Convention and become a Member. To 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. 3. Also, to improve and expand the statistical co-operation with the five "enhanced engagement" countries (Brazil, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa). 4. Furthermore, to co-ordinate 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 the candidate countries integration in the Organisation's reporting and information systems upon accession. The Enlargement Activity will also engage exchanges with the "enhanced engagement" (EE) countries in order to improve our understanding of their statistical policies and programs, 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, Chile, China, Estonia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2010

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

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

Activity 1.3: Monitoring the implementation of principles for official statistics

Description and objectives

Monitor the adherence to, and advocate for, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in UNECE Member countries, with special focus on the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe (SEE). Ensure adherence to the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities within UNECE Secretariat.

Activities and output

• Follow-up on the survey on implementation of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the EECCA and SEE countries.
• Support the implementation of Fundamental Principles in EECCA and SEE countries, by providing advice for legislation on official statistics.
• Promote the full implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities in the UNECE Secretariat.
• Carry out global assessments of national statistical systems, at the request from countries.

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 and for three years perspective (the Work Programme of CIS-STAT for 2010 and for the period 2009-2011).

The structure of the mentioned Work Programmes covers the following kinds of activities: 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 works included in the programmes is connected with 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. These programmes include, in particular, the following high priority works from the Plan of Implementation of Most Important Arrangements Aimed at the Development and Increase of Efficiency of Interaction of the Commonwealth Countries in Economic Sphere Over the Period 2003-2010, approved by the Decision of the Council of Heads of States of the Commonwealth in the city of Yalta on 19 September 2003:• Forecast of output, "visible consumption", imports and exports of selected goods in the Commonwealth countries for 2010 in the conditions of free trade zone (jointly with the Executive Committee of the CIS);
• Forecast of output, "visible consumption", imports and exports of consumer goods in selected CIS countries in 2010.

In the Work Programme for 2010 envisaged is a number of works connected with a new direction of CIS-STAT's work - 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 2009 in the Commonwealth countries in comparison with the forecast trends;
- Review of the main world trends (including CIS countries) in 2009 and nearest perspectives of development;
- 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 2010;
- Forecast estimates of the growth rates of main macroeconomic indicators of the CIS countries for the period 2010-2011;
- On the perspectives of the development of CIS countries in the nearest years.

4) Collection of information for CIS countries on the forecasts of the main indicators for the period 2010-2011, programmes of the development of economy in middle and long-term perspectives prepared by governmental bodies of the countries (ministries of economy, finances, central banks, etc.) and their adjustments during 2010 (from Internet and other sources).

5) Collection of analytic and statistical materials of the UN, IMF, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank of 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 2010-2011 and on their adjustments during 2010 (from Internet and other sources).

In pursuance of the decision of the Council of the Heads of States of the CIS of November 28, 2006 the CIS countries carry out active work aimed at successful conduct of the new round of population censuses to execute the World Programme of 2010 Population and Housing Censuses.

In 2010 it is envisaged to organize a regular meeting of the Coordination Council on Population Censuses, at which the representatives of national statistical services will discuss brief results of the censuses conduct, as well as methodological problems of the analysis of population censuses and current population statistics data and the problems of their usage in the inter-census period.

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

• Organise meetings and provide secretariat support for the work of the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and its working groups. The Statistics Committee co-ordinates the statistical activities of the ESCB.
• Continue work with the NCBs of the non-euro area Member States to prepare for future enlargements of the euro area. This includes ensuring the provision of: i) high quality data needed to examine the convergence achieved; ii) the wide range of data for which the ECB is primarily responsible from the date those countries join the euro area, and iii) the adequate transmission of relevant back data by all EU Member States to compile sufficiently long time series for any enlarged euro area.
• Contribute substantially to the work of the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance-of-payments statistics (CMFB), particularly concerning the statistics in the context of the excessive deficit procedure.
• Co-ordinate the ESCB statistical activities and cooperate with Eurostat and other international organisations to improve the quality of European statistics.

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 bilateral agreement in the field of statistics between Switzerland and the EU.

5.2 Statistical programmes, coordination within statistical systems (Eurostat)

Theme 6.01 Statistical coordination and classifications

1. Description

Statistical coordination covers activities that facilitate and make the production and dissemination of statistics more efficient, and activities to coordinate and promote better use of accounting data for statistical purposes. Statistical metadata are centralised and disseminated through RAMON, the new version of Eurostat's metadata server, 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.
The theme also covers the 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) and the International Standard Classification on Occupations (ISCO) for the European Statistical System (ESS).
In line with the Commission's better regulation agenda Eurostat will follow up on developments in the area of accounting to strive for better use of accounting data for statistical purposes and for increased comparability of concepts in the areas related to business statistics. Two classifications serve the statistics on trade in goods: the Combined Nomenclature (CN) of commodities and the Geonomenclature of countries.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Monitor implementation of the new NACE Rev 2 and CPA 2008.
- Ensure the adoption of Combined Nomenclature (CN) 2011, incorporating the available results of the CN modernisation project.
- Monitor the implementation of ISCO 08.
- Monitor the developments in the area of international/ European accounting standards and their impact on statistics and coordinate the work of the Task Force on accounting and statistics with a view to achieving better consistency of concepts in accounting and statistics.
- Develop a taxonomy of accounting and statistical data and follow up on its results.
- Integrate and improve the Eurostat metadata system using the Eurostat Metadata Handler (comprising the SDMX registry, Ramon, etc.) and based on international standards (such as the Neuchâtel Model).
- Continue contributing to the revision of the International Standard Classification for Education (ISCED) in cooperation with the OECD and Unesco (ISCED revision under the responsibility of the Unesco Institute of Statistics).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Development of a strategy for an update of NACE and CPA.
- Integrate the taxonomy projects into the MEETS programme.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Better use of accounting data for statistical purposes by establishing a taxonomy of accounting and statistical data.
- CN modernisation project.
- Actions to facilitate commodity classification (CN) for reporting companies.

Theme 8.03 Management and statistical programmes

1. Description

The main objectives are to provide an efficient management support service that meets the needs of users (Eurostat, the Commission and the ESS) and to ensure that Eurostat initiatives on organisational change contribute effectively to improvements in its performance in conformity with Commission requirements.
This encompasses, in particular (i) the introduction of a global management system supported by the development and implementation of an integrated system for planning, monitoring and reporting, ensuring that Eurostat's statistical work programme process is synchronised and consistent with the Commission's strategic planning and programming (SPP) cycle; (ii) support for implementation of the process improvement methodology and project management methodology, (iii) continued implementation of process, project and risk management, (iv) follow-up of improvement actions and (v) assessment of Eurostat's performance against the internal control standards.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Coordinate the preparation of the annual statistical work programme.
- Prepare Eurostat's contribution to the Commission's strategic planning and programming cycle.
- Conduct the annual risk management exercise as part of the preparation of the AMP
- Monitor and coordinate Eurostat's contributions relating to simplification and burden reduction activities.
- Develop and promote process and project management techniques within Eurostat.
- Monitor and report on progress on improvement actions.
- Assess Eurostat's performance against the Internal Control Standards (ICS).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Improve the management systems and increase the efficiency of planning, programming, monitoring and reporting activities
- Launch and coordinate the annual measurement exercise on response burden (and production costs) for business statistics
- Review processes linked to the SPP to make them more effective and less burdensome.
- Preparation of the next Multiannual Programme

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Annual measurement exercise on response burden (and production costs).

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 (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. 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 European Central Bank (ECB). The SQF is fully in line with and builds upon the ESCB's public commitment with respect to its statistical function.

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

Theme 8.02 Quality management and evaluation

1. Description

The theme includes the development, in cooperation with the partners of the ESS, of the policy and measures required to deliver high-quality European statistics: monitoring the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP), promotion of best practices and of benchmarking activities among the partners of the ESS, coordination of quality aspects within the production of statistics, implementation of the quality assurance framework for statistical processes and outputs in Eurostat, and quality awareness raising.
The theme covers in addition all the tasks necessary to carry out the evaluation function inside Eurostat: assessment of the Community Statistical Programme and its different processes and projects, coordination of evaluation activities inside the DG, establishment of the multi-annual evaluation programme, evaluation of statistical areas through rolling reviews, including cost assessments and partner and user surveys.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Quality assessments of Eurostat statistical processes including Rolling Reviews and identification of processes with common characteristics.
- Monitoring of Member States' implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice.
- Mid-term evaluation of the CSP 2008-2012.
- Sponsorship on quality.
- Activities related to promoting the implementation of the Code of Practice and of quality assurance in the ESS.
- Support to Member States in organising the two-yearly Conference on Quality in Official Statistics covering important methodological and quality-related topics for meeting current and future challenges of the statistical business processes of the European Statistical System.
- Assessment of the rolling review methodology.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Update the ESS quality glossary taking into account new quality concepts and definitions of quality and performance indicators for

improved assessment of statistical processes and their outputs.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- In the context of Rolling Reviews, implement users' and partners' surveys.

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 2010

General aspects:
In 2010, a number of Quality Reviews of OECD Statistical Activities will be carried out as in previous years.

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 has a series of initiatives under way to systematically measure, report on, and improve data quality with a special focus on timeliness and accessibility.
The Institute and OECD have developed a version of the IMF DQAF specifically for education that is used in capacity building activities.

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 (EU) and the countries preparing the accession to the EU. The topics relate to the ECB relevant statistical fields (e.g. monetary and financial statistics; balance of payments/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 2010, the EFTA Secretariat will fund the organisation of three ESTP courses respectively on Advanced Methods of Sample Survey (Switzerland), Business Registers (Norway) and Waste Statistics (Norway). 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

1. Description

The European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) aims to improve the overall quality of European statistics; (ii) raise the qualifications of

statisticians in the ESS in order to promote their independence in line with the Code of Practice; (iii) encourage both theoretical and practical learning and development; and (iv) encourage the exchange of best practices, know-how and experience. The ESTP is an essential part of the new ESS Learning and Development Framework.
Eurostat will implement together with the Member States the agreed projects in the new ESS Learning and Development Framework (ESS-LDF). Apart from the ESTP courses, projects cover areas such as competence profiles for European statisticians, e-learning and sharing of experience. Particular emphasis will be placed on providing support through the ESS-LDF for re-engineering the production systems of European statistics. The successful implementation of this programme will only be possible through close cooperation with the members of the ESS.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Evaluate the training provided in 2009 under the European Statistical Training Programme.
- Successfully implement the ESTP core programme 2010, including internal and external courses based on a training needs analysis, by the end of the year.
- Establish core ESTP 2011 catalogue publication.
- Successfully coordinate all ESS LDF projects by the end of the year.
- Successfully finalise ex-ante evaluation for competence profiles.
- Successfully provide guidelines for the usage of competence profiles of European statisticians, and successfully secure EFTA's involvement in the ESTP courses from 2011.
- Successfully finalise ex-ante evaluation for the ESS LDF portal.
- Successfully evaluate the replies to the new call for tenders and establish framework contracts for 2011-2014 ESTP courses in the ESS.
- Organise successfully the 2010 Eurostat study visit (European Statistical Week).

2.2 NEW WORK

- Successfully finalise ex-ante evaluation of a project for a European Master's in Official Statistics (together with Methodology and Research Unit).

5.4 Management and development of human resources (OECD)

Statistical Training Programme

Purpose

To develop and maintain a programme of training seminars on statistics and on economics, to include: a programme of regular courses provided by OECD staff; a dynamic timetable of events such as seminars/workshops provided by staff and visiting speakers; liaison with other agencies providing training, e-learning materials, and a statistical "knowledge base"; sessions to welcome newcomers (both analysts and statisticians) at the OECD.
The events are aimed at both compilers/managers of data and users, and may be open to both OECD staff and external participants.

Objectives and outputs

This initiative was launched in early 2001, and has been carried forward by an OECD-wide co-ordination group which reports to the SPG. All statistical staff was surveyed in 2004, in 2007 and in 2008 to identify their statistical training needs. The programme of regular training courses and one-off seminars were adjusted to address the needs of staff. Regular courses are available covering drafting for statisticians, visual organisation of information, national accounts, productivity measures and seasonal adjustments. IT courses covering OECD specific software such as STD browsers, OECD.Stat, MetaStore, Data Provider Interface and more generic techniques are also provided on a regular basis. One-off workshops and seminars are organised during the year.

Main Developments for 2010

General aspects:
In September 2009, the activity of the Statistical Training Advisory Group was momentarily suspended due to HR restructurings and recent staff movements in OECD Directorates.

5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)

Activity 8.6: Human resources development in statistical offices

Description and objectives

Facilitate exchange of experience and development of good practices in the area of human resources management and training in statistical offices.

Activities and output

• Provide secretariat support to the Organising Committee to follow-up on work on human resources management and training in statistical offices.
• Organise a seminar for human resources managers from statistical offices on staff management and training in September 2010, Geneva.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Organising Committee on human resources management and training in statistical offices

Eurostat
IMF

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 2010 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

1. Description

IT systems for statistical production have to provide the users with tools that allow them to fulfil their needs with regard to achieving the highest possible quality of data. This entails: providing timely and relevant support to all users of statistical production systems in Eurostat; (ii) improving the standardisation and harmonisation of IT solutions for data and metadata in the decentralised Eurostat IT model by means of a common architecture; (iii) putting forward proposals for the planning, specification, development, implementation and maintenance of common tools and systems for use in Eurostat's statistical production; (iv) encouraging the exchange of knowledge and know-how regarding systems for statistical production; (v) exploring, through contacts during various meetings and discussions, opportunities for cooperation between Eurostat and members of the ESS on generic statistical software.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Implementation of already existing tools such as Building Blocks and complete production systems.
- Support to production units and corrective and evolutive maintenance of systems for statistical production.
- Actively participate in creation of collaborative frameworks within ESS to share the development of specific IT components or their architecture.
- Development of new data processing tools such as Building Blocks.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Creation of collaborative frameworks within ESS to share the development of specific IT components or their architecture.

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

1. Description

Within the general objective of exploiting advanced statistical information technologies to achieve more business processes in the ESS, this theme centres on the development, maintenance and support of standards, guidelines, tools and services for the exchange of statistical information within the ESS and with its partners. The Single Entry Point will be supported by central and local tools (eDAMIS), enabling monitored transmission as well as uploading of files and online forms, together with automated validation, format conversion and delivery. It also includes the exchange of best practices and the supervision of pilot projects on raw data collection. Other related work areas include the development of metadata applications, management of the Eurostat CIRCA site and promotion of the open source approach to statistical software.
The medium-term strategy centres on promoting general use of the Single Entry Point, implementing SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange) standards and architecture, and exploiting XML-based standards and tools for interoperability in statistics.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Use the Single Entry Point for all regular data and metadata transmissions from Member States, based on standardised formats (GESMES, SDMX) where appropriate.
- Maintain the IT applications used for the Single Entry Point.
- Implement the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) standards and guidelines for data and metadata exchange, sharing and dissemination.
- Develop IT infrastructure for SDMX implementation.
- Implement a single IT environment for structural and reference metadata.
- Develop the Census Hub to support the transmission and dissemination of statistics from the 2011 census round.
- Provide open-source software for statistics.
- Support exchange of information among Member States on raw data collection technologies and best practices.

- Support the Eurostat CIRCA site, including the introduction of the new version — CIRCABC.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Exploit XBRL and other technologies in national reporting frameworks for business statistics (actions within the MEETS programme, following up the XBRL pilot project).
- Launch an ESSnet for development of the common reference environment for the ESS.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Action 201: Exploit XBRL and other technologies in national reporting frameworks for business statistics.
- Actions 103, 104, 105, 106: Data-sharing using SDMX standards, guidelines and architecture.
- Actions 108, 109, 202: Exchange of information among Member States on raw data collection technologies and best practices, and shared development of software according to the common reference architecture for the ESS.

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.

• 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 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 will also be tested.

• The day to day operations and use of the database will be reviewed and modernized using a web-based version of the software used.

• In the near future, all the databases operated by the Department of STATISTICS will be restructured, coding systems will be revised, and the new databases will be migrated to a relational database management environment using Oracle.

All the satellite applications related to the preparation and production of the new programme of data collection, management and dissemination will also be 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 statistical analysis.

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

Framework for Information Exchange in Local Development

Purpose

To support local governments and development agencies to collect, analyse and use data on their local economic and employment development policy challenges and impacts.
To support them in benchmarking their local economic and employment policy performance and the quality of their information systems with peers in other countries.

Objectives and outputs

The principal objectives are to support a selected group of local development organisations to improve the information systems they use in the design of the local economic and employment development policies and to enable the international exchange of information on policy challenges and performance.
It is planned to achieve this objective through:
• Workshops with selected local development organisations to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their current information systems and recommend actions they may take to improve these systems and the evidence base they provide.
• Peer exchanges among local development organisations operating in similar contexts to facilitate mutual learning on how to improve information systems.
• Exchange of standardised information fiches on local development performance, the drivers and enablers of this performance and the impacts of policy.
• Disseminating guidance to a wide audience of local development organisations on typical gaps and problems in information systems and how to remedy them.
• A series of thematic workshops on approaches to measuring skills, social exclusion, entrepreneurship and innovation at local level.
The work undertaken in 2009-10 will result in: i) sets of recommendations for each participating locality on how to strengthen their information systems, and ii) A manual for local policy makers on how to build information systems allowing to monitor local economic performance, identify policy need and measure policy impacts.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:
Latvia.

Main Developments for 2010

General aspects:
No major changes.

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.

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

Activity 4.1: Infrastructure for processing and disseminating statistical data

Description and objectives

Maintain and develop the necessary database infrastructure to support the processing and dissemination of statistical data. Coordinate UNECE data production regarding the consistency of statistical data and terminology, and the use of data collection, storage and dissemination methods.

Activities and output

• Ensure a database system to meet the needs of users, allowing the collection, processing and dissemination of UNECE statistical data (Statistical Division, Transport Division, Trade and Timber Division).
• Progress towards full implementation of the internal quality framework for the collection, processing and dissemination of data by the UNECE.
• Improve data quality, consistency of time series and consistency across different databases.
• Provide an infrastructure for free of charge Internet dissemination of UNECE statistical data, in English and Russian, to all interested users.

Activity 8.1: Management of statistical information systems

Description and objectives

Coordinate the work of the Steering Group on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) to: (i) provide a forum for exchange of experiences; (ii) make recommendations on the coordination of the activities of different international organizations in this area; (iii) collect, discuss and make available good practices; (iv) facilitate and encourage implementation of standards and recommendations in the field of statistical data processing in the UNECE region.

Activities and output

• Support the improvement of statistical information systems in national and international statistical organizations.
• Improve harmonisation of data models, concepts, etc. in the field of statistical information processing.
• Provide a platform for data and knowledge sharing among statistical organisations in this area.
• Provide a technological and organizational set-up to facilitate sharing of statistical software, modules and solutions.
• Prepare recommendations for the governance and practice of sharing statistical software.
• Standardize electronic data interchange, in particular, develop and promote the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) content oriented guidelines and other SDMX standards in cooperation with other international organizations.
• Provide secretariat support to the Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems.
• Organise the Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS April 2010).

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems
Sharing Advisory Board (subject to approval of the Bureau)
Eurostat
OECD

Activity 8.4: Statistical metadata

Description and objectives

Facilitate harmonisation of data models and structures for statistical metadata. Provide a forum for discussing metadata issues relevant to statistical offices. Complement other international initiatives dealing with data collection needs of international statistical organizations.

Activities and output

• Advocate for statistical metadata issues and the role of metadata in the management of statistical processes.
• Further develop and improve the Common Metadata Framework (CMF), a guide for statistical organisations to existing metadata standards, guidelines and recommendations.
• Develop parts B "Metadata Concepts, Standards, Models and Registries" and C "Metadata and the Statistical Business Process" of the Common Metadata Framework in cooperation with the METIS Steering Group.
• Add more case studies on the implementation of metadata systems in statistical organizations (Part D "Implementation").
• Provide secretariat support to the CES Steering Group on Statistical Metadata
• Organise a Work Session on Statistical Metadata in March 2010.
• Cooperate actively with other organizations on the standardisation of electronic data interchange, including the SDMX content oriented guidelines and other SDMX standards.

Organizations and groups involved

CES Steering Group on statistical metadata
Eurostat
OECD
SDMX Secretariat.

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 system has also incorporated micro data from household surveys allowing cross-country comparisons on key indicators by welfare status.
• A new 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 involved in a Pilot Project in rebuilding the Joint External Debt Statistics through SDMX standards (see

http://www.jedh.org/
). These statistics are a product of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics. They bring together data that are currently compiled and published separately by the contributing international agencies on components of countries' external debt and international reserve assets. This should facilitate timely and frequent access by a broad range of users to a single data set. These data are mostly from creditor and market sources, but also include information provided by the debtor countries to the Quarterly External Debt Statistics (QEDS) of the World Bank. The goal is to explore common e-standards and ongoing standardization activities that could allow us to gain efficiency and avoid duplication of effort in our own work and possibly for the work of others in the field of statistical information. We intend to do this by taking advantage of existing and emerging:
  o Exchange protocols, such as GESMES/CB which was implemented by central banks for exchanging time series;
  o E-standards, such as Extensible Markup Language (XML).

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 (ENP)

1. Description

The activities to be carried out in the field of statistical cooperation with ENP countries aim to: (i) provide an advisory service to external relations DGs, Commission delegations, and national statistical authorities with respect to EU cooperation policies in Eastern and Southern ENP countries, and coordinating Eurostat units' contribution to this work; (ii) coordinate EU efforts to build statistical capacity within the framework of MEDSTAT and ENPI; (iii) gradually harmonise the statistical systems of the ENP countries towards the ESS; (iv) encourage best practices from the ESS to be applied in ENP countries through mutual contacts, training, study visits, workshops, seminars, and attendance at meetings, and (v) collect and disseminate a range of data from the ENP countries.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Provide technical assistance to DG AIDCO in the implementation of the MEDSTAT III programme.

- Participate in ENP country subcommittees and steering committees that deal with statistical issues, and provide ad hoc technical advice to DG RELEX and other DGs on the statistical situation within the countries.
- Monitor the progress being achieved by Eastern ENP countries regarding the adoption of EU statistical methods, classifications and standards.
- Data collection of key time series for the ENP countries.
- Dissemination of key time series for the ENP countries.

2.2 NEW WORK

- MEDSTAT country statistical situation reports.
- Global assessment of ENP-East countries.
- Facilitate participation of ENP countries in relevant Eurostat and international seminars, workshops and conferences.

Theme 6.09 International statistical cooperation

1. Description

The purpose of the work carried out in this field is to provide an advisory service to Commission departments and national statistical authorities with respect to EC development and cooperation policies and to coordinate Eurostat units' contribution to this work; and to assist the EC in relations with international organisations and in matters of common statistical interest with non-European regions or countries.
This includes services such as: advocating and promoting good governance through statistics in the Community'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); providing advice and expertise to Commission departments, in particular external relations DGs, delegations, and Eurostat units on statistical cooperation concerning the identification, planning, implementation and evaluation of statistical projects or the statistical elements of more wide-ranging development projects; 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 departments 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; and coordinating Eurostat's relations with Higher Income Countries (HICs) 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.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Provide advisory service for other Commission departments (external relations family, including delegations) and beneficiaries on cooperation programmes with ACP, ALA, Central Asia aimed at building statistical capacity and gradual harmonisation of statistical systems with international methods, standards and classifications.
- Make an effective contribution to advocacy for statistics and international coordination of statistical cooperation activities and the implementation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics through active participation within Paris21 and other international fora.
- Develop and improve thematic areas of international statistical cooperation (guide to international statistical cooperation, MDG/development indicators work, statistical training, etc.).
- Continue transfer of know-how regarding statistical tools (ERETES, Eurotrace) to subregional organisations and user groups.
- Provide updated non-EU country statistics and improve information services on international statistical cooperation (publications, Eurostat's website, knowledge base)
  Continue the development of a knowledge base on the current state of play for all regions covered by the unit's responsibility showing the level of statistical capacity in the countries in those regions and EC aid provided/planned in the field of statistics.
- Implement an action plan for raising the profile of the Commission and the ESS in international statistical fora through effective participation in major international meetings.
- Coordinate effectively relations with Higher Income Countries, including EFTA countries, USA, Canada, Russia.
- Coordinate statistical cooperation activities at EU level.
- Keep up constant contacts, exchange information and participate in main meetings of international, regional and sub-regional organisations.
- Provide advice to Eurostat and ESS departments on their relations with international organisations and countries outside Europe.

2.2 NEW WORK

- Analyse the results of a study on the demand for statistical training, make results known to other groups interested (e.g. task teams on training organised by Paris21, Economic Commission for Africa) and investigate possibilities for further action in the fields of census and prices training in Africa.
- Follow up the Luxembourg Recommendations on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts.

2.3 SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION

- Increase efficiency of the use of resources of the ESS in its relations with international organisations and in international meetings.
- Improve coordination of EU donors in statistical cooperation in African, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia and Latin American countries, allowing Member States to make their cooperation more efficient.

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

1. Description

The theme covers the whole range of activities relevant to Eurostat's position in the Commission structure and its pivotal role in the development of the ESS. The main strategic objective is to ensure coherent development of statistical activities within the inter-institutional structure of the

Union and promote partnership between Eurostat and other key international players in Community statistics, with particular regard to legal aspects. The theme also covers managing relations with external users of European statistics. This entails facilitating close and continuous dialogue with external users about their needs, actual usage and priorities for official statistics. In addition, the theme includes providing the secretariat for the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB).

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- participation and contribution to EP Committees discussing statistical legislative proposals.
- Cooperation with Council Presidencies.
- Follow-up of STATIS working group in the Council.
- Advice and follow-up of legislation.
- Organise the meetings of the ESSC.
- Organise DGINS conference.
- Organise ESAC meeting.
- Organise ESAC seminar.
- Provide secretariat service to ESGAB.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (FAO)

Coordination of International Statistical Work

• FAO is actively involved in the Wye City Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income. It will host the next meeting of this Group in June 2009.
• 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 Interscretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG)
Meetings in 2010:
• The 23rd session of Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP): 22-26 February, 2010, Hobart, Australia.
• The meeting of CWP Aquaculture Group: June, 2010, Bangkok, Thailand.

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

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

Activity 1.1: Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA)

Description and objectives

Maintain an online database providing information on statistical work of about 30 international agencies. The Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) is an important tool to assist the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in fulfilling its primary role - to coordinate the statistical work undertaken by the various international agencies in the UNECE region.

Activities and output

• Prepare and publish the 2010 issue of the database.
• Start the preparations for the 2011 issue of the database.
• Provide input to the in-depth reviews of the CES Bureau in specific statistical areas where significant developments have taken place, coordinated action is needed or there is a lack of activities at the international level.
• Monitor the use of the database and ask for feedback in order to improve presentation and functionality of the database.

Activity 1.2: Secretariat support for the work of the CES and its Bureau

Description and objectives

Provide secretariat support for the work of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), the Sectoral Committee of the UNECE Statistical Division and its Bureau that steers the work of the Conference. The CES coordinates the statistical activities of the three main international organizations working in the UNECE region, Eurostat, OECD and UNECE, as well as the statistical activities of other organizations, such as

CIS-STAT, UNSD, IMF, ILO, WHO and the World Bank. The CES provides a forum for Heads of national and international statistical agencies to address issues of current interest, discuss the region's common statistical problems, exchange experience, and formulate common solutions and recommendations.

Activities and output

• Organize and service the CES Bureau meetings (February 2010 (a short meeting during the UNSC session), June 2010, and October 2010).
• Organize and service the annual plenary session of the CES (Paris, the week of 7-11 June 2010), which includes three modules: a session on formal business and two seminar sessions.
• Provide secretariat support in the preparation of the CES seminars on "The impact of the global crises on statistical systems" and "Spatial statistics/Role of a spatial dimension in official statistics" during the CES 2010 plenary session.
• Coordinate the implementation of follow-up activities of the CES 2009 and 2010 plenary sessions.
• Prepare the UNECE Statistical Programme 2011.
• Report on the work of the CES to the EXCOM.
• Coordinate the Teams of Specialists that work under the auspices of the CES in various statistical areas and report on their activities to the Conference and its Bureau.

5.6 Coordination of international statistical work (OECD)

Services Statistics Co-ordination

Purpose

In response to the increasing importance of services in modern economies, and a request from UN Statistical Commission, the activity seeks to coordinate and raise awareness of international development work on services statistics that takes place in a wide variety of expert groups in OECD and in other agencies.
Within OECD a further aim is to provide support as required to database managers in improving dissemination of data on services.

Objectives and outputs

A progress and strategy report is provided to the UN Statistical Commission at its request.
CSTAT, WPTGS and other WPs as required to develop an OECD-wide view on service statistics developments and requirements (see 7. Purpose). SPG involvement needed.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

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

Main Developments for 2010

General aspects:
a) Implement the revision decisions of IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010, in which trade processing is allocated to services trade and not any longer to merchandise trade
b) Develop a new classification for integrated goods and services trade by product
c) Evaluate and promote services integration into trade by enterprise characteristics (combination of trade and structural business statistics at micro level)
Produce a report for UNSC if required.

Co-ordination of OECD Statistical Activities

Purpose

To co-ordinate OECD statistical programmes with Eurostat, ECE, IMF, UN and other organisations with respect to both data collection and the development of international statistical standards.
To increase the visibility of statistical activities carried out by the OECD and to co-ordinate internal OECD statistical activities to improve the quality of statistics and the efficiency of the OECD statistical organisation.

Objectives and outputs

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 provision on member countries, increase the visibility of OECD statistical work; and contribute to the development of the international statistical system.
Co-ordinate the preparation of and publishing of the annual OECD statistical programme of work.
Improvement in the consistency of data collected and disseminated by the OECD through the development of the OECD statistical information system and co-ordination of the migration of existing statistical activities towards the new statistical information system. Provide linkages with similar facilities in other international organisations and national agencies.
Further improve relationships with national statistical activities and improve international co-operation between OECD member countries in the area of statistics through the OECD Committee on Statistics, composed of Heads of National Statistical Agencies.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

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

Databases

OECD statistical programme of work.

Main Developments for 2010

General aspects:
Following completion of accession activities for four countries in 2009, 2010 will see continuation of the accession activities with Russia. A special coordination effort will be made regarding enhanced engagement countries.
The OECD is also active in the implementation of the strategy developed by the UN Committee on Co-ordination of Statistical Activities to further strengthen the international statistical system.

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 2010, 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 and peer reviews of national statistical systems in light of the European Statistics Code of Practice as well as seminars and study visit on socio-economic statistics and applied statistical methods.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (Eurostat)

Theme 6.07 Statistical cooperation with the candidate and potential candidate countries

1. Description

The activities to be carried out in the field of statistical cooperation with candidate and potential candidate countries include (i) preparation for EU membership of candidate and potential candidate countries by aligning their methodologies and practices with the statistical acquis and integrating them into the European Statistical System; (ii) contributions to Commission activities including inputs to the annual progress reports; (iii) inputs to meetings under the structures of the association agreements and the stabilisation and association agreements, provision of data for the enlargement process and the stabilisation and association process; and (iv) accession negotiations regarding the statistics chapter and the statistics component of other chapters.
Cooperation with the candidate and potential candidate countries involves the entire cycle of assistance programmes with programming, tendering, implementation and evaluation. This will continue at a significant level with large cooperation programmes and budgets to manage. Statistical cooperation including the management of large budgets and programmes with the Member States that joined in 2007 (Phare/MBP programmes) will continue until 2010/2011. The cooperation with these new Member States includes support for implementing new statistical acquis, improving the quality of data and full integration into the ESS.

2. Work Programme for 2010

2.1 ONGOING WORK

- Contract technical assistance for implementing the statistical acquis in the candidate and potential candidate countries.
- Implement technical assistance programmes for Bulgaria and Romania and the candidate and potential candidate countries (MBP 2006, IPA 2007 and IPA 2008 programmes).
- Contribute to reporting and monitoring procedures on the compliance of candidate and potential candidate countries with the statistical acquis.
- Support implementation of national cooperation programmes in the candidate and potential candidate countries.
- Contribute to the accession negotiation process for Croatia and Turkey and to the screening process for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Contribute to the Commission opinion on new EU membership applications.
- Conduct full assessments of the statistical systems of candidate and potential candidate countries.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (FAO)

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance will be provided through FAO's Technical Cooperation projects as well as through other external funded projects.
Capacity building
A Roundtable Meeting on Agricultural Census 2010 was held in Budapest, Hungary, 23-27 November 2009.

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 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 correspondents, and in Latin America, from the SIALC project office in Panama, as well as from ILO headquarters.

Training Programme of the ILO Department of Statistics
• In 2010, the ILO Department of Statistics' training programme will fully support its new and strengthened mandate and will focus, therefore, on two major training areas:
a) to meet the needs of ILO constituents to increase their capacity to produce reliable statistics 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.

Separate technical training workshops on strengthening labour market statistics and information have already taken place in 2009. Further programmes will be delivered during 2010 with the ILO Training centre in Turin, Italy. The topics will cover labour force survey development, and labour market information, as well as administrative records

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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 evidence-based policy making and implementation which serves to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Objectives and outputs

PARIS21 activities focus on assisting all low-income countries in the design, implementation, and monitoring of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). PARIS21 carries out this work through advocacy, methodology and documentation, and regional programmes. Advocacy activities have included the creation of videos featuring high-profile policy makers and development professionals discussing the importance of statistics in poverty reduction decision-making processes. PARIS21's methodological work includes the development of documentation and methodological guidance intended to assist countries in their NSDS processes. PARIS21's regional programmes include the organisation of regional workshops to take forward the NSDS design process. The workshops and follow-on national programmes assist countries to plan strategically for the overall development of the countries' entire statistical system and to address immediate and longer-term information needs for setting and monitoring policy in the context of poverty reduction strategies.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Asia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, 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 2010

General aspects:
In 2010, PARIS21 will convene a reflection group on how to address the statistical issues specific to fragile states and will launch a special programme of support (in collaboration with the FAO) on further developing the agricultural statistics component of NSDSs in three pilot countries. Throughout 2010, PARIS21 and its partners will update and enrich the NSDS guidelines to include best practices collected over the past five years.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (Paris21)

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. It was established as a global forum and network to promote, influence and facilitate statistical capacity building activities and the better use of statistics. PARIS21 acts as a catalyst, building on existing work and processes. The main activity of the PARIS21 work programme is the promotion of national strategies for the development of statistics.

Objectives and outputs
PARIS21 Consortium activities focus on assisting all low-income countries in the design and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). PARIS21 carries out this work through advocacy, methodology development, partnership, and regional programmes. Advocacy activities have included the creation of videos featuring high-profile policymakers and development professionals discussing the importance of statistics in poverty reduction decision making processes. PARIS21's methodological work includes the development of documentation and guidance intended to assist countries in the design and implementation of their NSDSs. Partnership activities include gathering information on technical and financial partner support to statistics as an initial input to donor collaboration. PARIS21's regional

programmes include the organisation of regional workshops to take forward the NSDS design and implementation processes. The workshops and follow-on national programmes assist countries to plan strategically for the overall development of the countries' entire statistical system and to address immediate and longer-term information needs for setting and monitoring policy in the context of poverty reduction strategies.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:
Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, East Timor, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Main Developments for 2010

General aspects:
In 2010, 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 donor activities in support of statistical development, with an ultimate objective of facilitating donor collaboration.

Statistical Capacity Building

Ongoing work:
• The PARIS21 work programme for 2010 will primarily involve activities at the national level. The activities related to country support will focus on the facilitation of NSDS implementation. While regional workshops will still be organised to allow countries to share information and benefit from other countries' experiences in statistical development, PARIS21 will engage with a selection of countries to intensify country-level activities. These would include advocacy, resource mobilisation, partnership activities, and developing and facilitating donor coordination.

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 centred on implementing NSDSs which both build statistical capacity and provide data for immediate priority needs. To carry this work forward, PARIS21 will produce methodological guidance on strategic planning, help track countries' progress with their NSDSs, find solutions to the obstacles that countries may have encountered, and facilitate advanced countries sharing their experiences on follow-up and strategic plan development with countries aiming at taking similar steps. PARIS21 also co-implements two "satellite 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 is a pilot program intended to assist selected countries to undertake urgent improvements to produce consistent results for monitoring progress and measuring change in key development indicators, including the MDGs.

New activities:
• In 2010, PARIS21 will define and launch a programme of support tailored to the needs of fragile and post-conflict states. PARIS21 will convene two task teams in 2010: to enrich the NSDS guidelines with lessons learnt from the previous five years and (ii) to determine how to measure the use of evidence in decision-making. PARIS21 will also monitor the implementation of the Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics, which outlines a five-point call to action for the Partnership on issues relating to: strategy implementation, mobilisation of technical and financial resources for statistics, co-ordination of donor support to statistics, meeting the needs of data users, and development of statistical tools and methodologies.

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 produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators 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, organizing study tours, and making available statistical toolkits in three subject domains supplemented by activities related to the MDG indicators. These domains are i) national statistical system, ii) population censuses and social statistics, and iii) national accounts, basic economic statistics, environment statistics, and environmental-economic accounting frameworks. 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 two subject domains are very broadly defined to cover together most substantive areas in statistics.

Ongoing work

The main task within the domain of population censuses and social statistics currently and for the next two years is to assist Member States in the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses to be undertaken during 2005-2014. The goal of the 2010 World Programme is for all countries and areas to agree on a set of accepted international principles and recommendations governing the conduct of censuses and to disseminate census results in a timely manner. Within the broad domain of national accounts and basic economic

statistics, the priorities are i) implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), ii) implementation of the revised recommendations in areas of industry statistics, international trade statistics, distributive trade statistics, and tourism statistics, and iii) implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).
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.

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)

Activity 1.4: Coordination of technical cooperation in Central Asia

Description and objectives

Coordinate the technical cooperation in statistics carried out by international and national organizations in Central Asian countries, contribute to the Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development (PRESS), maintained by PARIS21 (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century). This reporting system is developed by a Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities Task Team in cooperation with the UNECE Statistical Division.

Activities and output

• Coordinate technical cooperation in statistics in Central Asian countries.
• Provide timely and comprehensive information on all UNECE technical cooperation projects in statistics as a contribution to the global Report on donor activities in the field of statistics produced annually by PARIS21.
• Organize the Annual SPECA Project Working Group Meeting on Statistics (June 2010) to discuss the technical cooperation activities in Central Asia.

Organizations and groups involved

CIS-STAT
Eurostat
PARIS21

Activity 9.1: Statistical capacity building in countries of South-East Europe and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Description and objectives

Improve the statistical capacity in countries of South-East Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) by enhancing their ability to meet the needs of data users at the national and international level. Increase substantially the production and publication of gender relevant statistical information aiming to provide better basis for knowledge-based policy formulation on equal opportunities for women and men.

Activities and output

• Technical assistance on developing Millennium Development Goals indicators, in support of statistical capacity building in member countries of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA): Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The following technical assistance projects are in implementation stage in 2010:

- The inter-regional UN Development Account Project of the 6th Tranche (2009-2011) "Supporting MDG-based development strategies through integrated regional action" implemented jointly in 2009-2011 with UNESCAP. UNECE is focusing on disaggregation of selected MDG indicators for improved monitoring of development needs in the target countries.

- The global UN Development Account Project of the 7th Tranche (2010-2012) "Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the MDGs and reducing indicators' discrepancies between national and international sources". UNECE is focusing on better reconciliation of national and international MDG indicators in the framework of this project and in the UNECE Statistical Division's work on building up a regional MDG Database (see activity 3.2 of this Programme).

• Technical assistance on developing short-term economic statistics, in support of Statistical capacity building in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The following technical assistance project is in implementation stage in 2010:

- The project "Challenges in Short-term Economic Statistics", funded by the World Bank (2009-2011). The project focuses on short-term economic statistics, seasonal adjustments and price statistics. Two training workshops are planned to be organised in 2010: on seasonal adjustments and on Consumer Price Indices.

• Technical assistance on developing migration statistics, in support of statistical capacity building in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan. Other countries that may also be involved include: Armenia, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The following technical assistance project is in implementation stage in 2010:

- The global UN Development Account project of the 6th Tranche (2009-2011) "Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration". The UNECE components of the project are focusing on two aspects (1) strengthening evidence-based policy making by promoting the use of statistics on international migration, and (2) developing the statistical capacity of data producers and promoting the exchange of data between countries.

• Technical assistance on engendering statistical information and providing statistical information on violence against women in support of statistical capacity building in selected countries in the EECCA and SEE countries. The following technical assistance projects are in implementation stage in 2010:

- The "Capacity Building program on Engendering National Statistical Systems for a Knowledge-Based Policy Formulation in EECCA and SEE countries", funded by the World Bank in 2006-2010, implemented in collaboration with the World Bank Institute. The following activities will be carried out in 2010:
o Organization of regional, sub-regional and national training workshops.
o Finalization of training materials.
o Assistance to NSOs in developing methodology, performing surveys, and making use of registries for production and dissemination of engendered statistical information.
The beneficiary countries are Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and Uzbekistan.

- The global UN Development Account Project of the 6th Tranche (2009-2011) "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities". In this global project, the role of UNECE is to facilitate interregional exchange of experience, and to develop and test a short statistical module on violence against women based on a core set of indicators approved at the 40th session of the UN Statistical Commission.

• Technical assistance in the field of national accounts in Albania (One UN Pilot project 2009-2011). Raising awareness of the main users on the importance of internationally comparable statistics in the context of EU pre-accession. Advisory services on the implementation of the revised system of national accounts (SNA 2008), measurement of Gross Domestic Product and key national accounts indicators, and development of a system of quarterly accounts.

• Technical assistance in support of the preparations for the first Population and Housing Census in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the internationally administered territory of Kosovo, planned to take place in 2011, in cooperation with UNFPA, Eurostat and other involved international organizations. This includes participation in the International Monitoring and Observation missions in Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed at ensuring that the next population and housing censuses are planned and conducted in accordance with the internationally agreed standards (in particular the CES Census Recommendations and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics) and that the enumeration is fair and impartial.

• Joint Training Workshops with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) for strengthening the statistical capacity in countries which are members in both UNECE and UNESCAP. Beneficiary countries are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, possibly also Armenia and Georgia.

• Joint workshop(s) on improving communication and dissemination of key statistics with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the framework of the UN Development Account Project of the 7th Tranche (2010-2012) "Improving the dissemination and communication of key statistics and indicators, especially those needed to monitor progress toward the MDGs and internationally agreed development goals". Activities within the framework of this DESA-led project in the UNECE region are still to be defined.

Activity 9.2: Short-term technical cooperation

Description and objectives

Provide specific advisory services in statistics to South-East European (SEE) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries in areas where the Statistical Division of UNECE has a recognised expertise, upon request.

Activities and output

• Provide short-term assistance to UNECE countries, upon request by national authorities or international organizations, with special emphasis on SEE and EECCA countries. Technical assistance is provided in a wide range of areas as required, such as: general organization of the national statistical system, national strategy for the development of statistics, statistical legislation, dissemination and marketing of statistical information, population census, migration, gender statistics, short-term economic indicators, national accounts, etc.
• Participate as facilitators, lecturers and discussants in seminars, training workshops, conferences and meetings on topics mentioned above.
• Carry out Global Assessments of statistical systems in UNECE member countries in cooperation with other international organisations and specialists.

Activity 9.3: Planned technical assistance projects subject to availability of external funding

Description and objectives

Providing technical assistance to meet country requests in areas where external funding is being negotiated or sought (status of June 2009).

• Support for analytic, cartographic and dissemination activities related to the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in SEE and EECCA countries.
• Support for improved statistical literacy and evidence-based decision making in SEE and EECCA countries by improved dissemination of official statistics.
• Support for improved statistical business registers in the SEE and EECCA countries.
• Support for the establishment of dissemination databases in selected SEE and EECCA countries.
• Support for improved price indices in the SEE and EECCA countries.
• Support for producing environmental indicators to SEE and EECCA countries.

Activities and output

• Provide advisory services on analysis, dissemination and other skills as part of making efficient use of the census results of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in SEE and EECCA countries.
• Promote understanding and use of statistical information by government officials, NGOs, business, research and educational institutions by providing assistance to NSOs in developing improved interaction and communication techniques for different categories of users of statistical information. Enhanced use of statistical information in evaluating and analysing economic and socio-economic phenomena, as well as in policy-

and decision-making in targeted countries. Increasing the knowledge of sources of statistical information among existing and potential users of statistical information.
• Organize a workshop focusing on the legal and practical issues related to developing the business registers (BRs) in selected National Statistical Offices in SEE and EECCA countries. More specific themes would be the use of administrative sources for updating BRs, linkages between administrative and statistical units maintained in the BR, and ways to improve the quality of statistical BRs for better use in the compilation of business statistics.
• Support for selected countries to build up dissemination databases for selected SEE and EECCA countries, making use of the expertise and know-how accumulated in UNECE on dissemination systems of aggregated statistical information.
• Support for the development of price statistics in SEE and EECCA countries, including, inter alia, improved calculation methods, population and regional coverage and coverage of goods and services, inclusion of owner occupied housing, methodologies for replacements and quality adjustments, updating of the sample and methods for data collection and validation, calculation of long, fixed based time series of price indices and Purchasing Power Parities.
• Support to the EECCA and interested SEE countries to further strengthen and harmonize environmental data collection, producing pan-European environmental indicators and promoting comparability of environmental statistics.

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.
• 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 currently under implementation. The project is being supported by co-financing from DFID and SIDA, as well as in-kind contributions from the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The mid-term review of the project was conducted in November 2008 with quite positive findings. . The project is moving on schedule and it is anticipated that all activities will be completed by the closing date of June 2011.
• 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. It has financed a number of projects in the region and there are currently an NSDS and capacity building project in Armenia, and capacity building projects in Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan. In addition, participation of several staff of Moldovan National Bureau of Statistics in an international conference was recently funded.

• 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 Development Gateway Foundation initiative, in which the bank works together with the DGF and the IMF, is aiming at the development of a portal website on development issues, from which users will be able to access information, resources and tools, and into which they will be able to contribute their own knowledge and experience

http://www.developmentgateway.org/
.
• 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 new 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
.

New activities

There are two TFSCB projects in the pipeline: (i) project to support UNECE led training activities to improve the capacity of the National Statistical Offices in Central Asia and East European sub-regions in production and dissemination of economic statistics; and (ii) project to strengthen sub-national capacity for analysis of living conditions in Russia. In addition, it is anticipated that the TFSCB will provide funding to strengthen training programs for the national statistical offices of the Commonwealth Independent States in the coming year.