

# 5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics

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

### *Ongoing work:*

#### **Institutional framework of EFTA Statistical cooperation**

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

#### **Objective of EFTA Statistical Cooperation**

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

### *New activities:*

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

### **Theme 8.04 - Management of legal bases**

#### *Fields of activities covered by the theme*

#### **1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013**

##### **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

##### **1.2 ONGOING WORK**

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

### **OECD Enlargement**

#### **Purpose**

- Coordinate reviews of the statistical system and statistics of the Russian Federation in order to assist Council in taking an informed decision on whether to invite the Russian Federation to accede to the OECD Convention and become a Member. Consolidate information on the Russian Legal and Institutional framework for statistics, collect and review data and metadata from Russian statistical authorities in order to support the examination of economic and other policies by the OECD Committees.
- Improve and expand the statistical co-operation with the five Key Partner countries (Brazil, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa). Conduct light assessment reviews of data and metadata based on a standard set of basic OECD statistical requirements and encourage and assist KP countries to bring their statistics in line with coverage, quality and comparability of OECD member statistics. Coordinate data and metadata collection for KP countries with other OECD Directorates.
- Coordinate the development of statistics for G20 countries or other non-members of relevance for the organisation.

#### **Objectives and outputs**

- This activity is to support the Committee on Statistics in its evaluation of the statistical system and statistics of the Russian Federation, a country selected for possible membership in the OECD. To help integrate data for the candidate countries and enhanced engagement countries in the Organisation's reporting and information systems.
- The Enlargement Activity will also facilitate exchanges with the "Key Partner" (KP) countries in order to improve our understanding of their statistical legal and institutional framework for statistics and their statistical programmes, develop specific statistical relationships with each of the KP countries, and co-ordinate the development of working level statistical projects involving KP countries and OECD Members.

#### **Non-member countries involved in the activity:**

- Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Slovenia Former, South Africa

#### **Main Developments for 2013**

#### **General aspects:**

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

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

#### **Ongoing work:**

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

- The statistical activities are coordinated by the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and its working groups on external statistics, euro area accounts, general economic statistics, government finance statistics, monetary and financial statistics, securities statistics and statistical information systems as well as the related business coordination groups and task forces.
- Contribute substantially to the work of the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB), particularly concerning the excessive deficit procedure statistics.
- Co-ordinate the ESCB statistical activities and cooperate with Eurostat and other international organisations to improve the quality of European statistics.
- Provide statistical support to the European Systemic Risk Board, responsible for macro-prudential oversight of the financial system within the new European financial supervisory architecture established in the European Union up from 1 January 2011.
- Contribute to the preparatory arrangements for the exchange of information relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions (single supervisory mechanism), which require the exchange of more granular quantitative and qualitative information with NCBs, national supervisors and the European Banking Authority.
- Participate, as member of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics in the development and implementation of the Action Plan on Statistics supported by the finance ministers and central bank governors of the G20. This action plan contains timetables for the implementation of 20 recommendations on how to address the measurement of risks in the financial sector, international financial linkages and the vulnerability of economies to shocks, as well as the communication of official statistics.
- Participate in the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (also as a member of the Executive) in the exchange of views amongst central bank economists, statisticians and policy-makers of statistical issues of interest to central banks. Recent activities include data initiatives related to financial stability and initiatives to address data gaps revealed by the financial crisis.

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

### **Ongoing work:**

#### **Annual European Economic Area (EEA) statistical programme**

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

#### **Switzerland/EU annual statistical programme**

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

### **New activities:**

## **5.2 Statistical programmes, coordination within statistical systems (Eurostat)**

### **Theme 6.01 - Quality, evaluation, statistical coordination and classifications**

#### **Fields of activities covered by the theme**

#### **1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013**

##### **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

##### **1.2 ONGOING WORK**

### **Theme 8.03 - Management and statistical programmes**

#### **Fields of activities covered by the theme**

#### **1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013**

##### **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

## 1.2 ONGOING WORK

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

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

##### Statistical Programme

###### **Ongoing work:**

- The Work Programme of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS is the main document organizing its activities in the forthcoming year (the Work Programme of CIS-STAT for 2013).
  - The structure of the mentioned Work Programmes covers the following kinds of activities: international comparisons programme, methodological work, economic work, exchange of experience and training of the personnel of national statistical services of the CIS, information and publishing activities, dissemination of information and information and reference services, improvement of computer technology, cooperation with international organizations.
  - Considerable part of the works included in the programmes is connected with the International Comparisons Programme, methodological, analytical and information and publishing activities and submission of necessary information to interstate bodies of the CIS, government and economic bodies of the Commonwealth, international organizations, mass media and other users. Of high priority in the Work Programme for 2013 are the works connected with international comparisons of the GDP of the CIS countries for 2011 in the framework of the Global round of ICP.
  - According to the programme of international comparisons in 2013 it is planned to conduct three meetings of the CIS countries specialists: on the issues of disaggregation of GDP, on preliminary results of 2011 international comparisons of GDP of the CIS countries and on the results of experimental inclusion of the CIS region into the global results.
  - The Work Programme includes high priority work on the forecast of production, "visible consumption", imports and exports of selected kinds of products in the countries of the Commonwealth for 2014 (jointly with the Executive Committee of the CIS).
  - Envisaged in the Work Programme is a number of works connected with *forecast estimates*:
  - Maintenance of the database for forecast estimates of the main macroeconomic indicators growth rates by CIS countries.
  - Preparation of analytic papers on the following themes:
  - Preliminary forecasts of the CIS countries development for near-term perspective;
  - Forecast estimates of GDP and consumer prices growth rates by CIS countries and most important regional amalgamations of the countries of the world (including CIS) for 2014;
  - Collection of information for CIS countries on the forecasts of the main indicators for the period 2013-2014, developed by governmental bodies of the countries (ministries of economy, finances, central banks, etc.), programmes of economy development for mid-term and long-term perspective and their adjustments during 2013 (from Internet and other sources);
  - Collection of analytic and statistical materials of the UN, IMF, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, OECD, Eurostat and other international organizations on the trends of the development of the economy of the world, regional amalgamations and selected countries of the world, on general perspectives of their development for the coming years, on forecasts of growth rates of the main macroeconomic indicators of the countries of the world (including CIS countries) for the period 2013-2014 and on their adjustments during 2013 (from Internet and other sources).
  - In pursuance of the decision of the Council of the Heads of CIS Governments of November 19, 2010 on the main target macroeconomic indicators of the development of economy of the CIS countries, CIS-STAT carries out monitoring of the main macroeconomic indicators illustrating socio-economic situation, level and dynamics of economic development, degree of economic integration of the CIS countries. This work is carried out each year.
  - Apart from that, the Work Programme includes preparation of the materials on monitoring indicators of quality of life of population in the Commonwealth countries.
  - In 2013 publication of brief results of the 2010 round of population censuses in the CIS countries will be continued.
  - The Work Programme envisages as well the upgrading of qualification of the personnel of the CIS national statistical services on most important divisions of economic statistics: system of national accounts, statistics of prices, finances, balance of payments, etc.
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## **5.2 Statistical programmes, priority setting, relationships with users and respondents (ILO)**

### **Statistical Policy**

- The ILO Department of Statistics was established in May 2009, which replaced the former ILO Bureau of Statistics, and is responsible, inter alia, for compiling and making available in a timely manner ILO statistics on the four pillars of Decent Work. Besides, it is responsible of coordinating the international standards setting of labour and decent work statistics and for hosting the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The compilation, quality control and dissemination of ILO statistical information is now centrally managed and coordinated by the Department of Statistics. All statistical methodologies and databases carried out by different units within sectors and regions are coordinated by the Department of Statistics. All units, regions and sectors are requested to seek technical clearance from the Department of Statistics before disseminating and publishing global and regional statistical data.
  - The Department defines and implements a statistical capacity-building programme for the Office and its constituents.
  - The Director of the Department of Statistics serves as the ILO Chief Statistician and is consulted on all matters of data collection, statistical methodologies and major publications and releases of ILO statistical information.
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## **5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices (ECB)**

### **Ongoing work:**

#### **Further implementation of the ECB Statistics Quality framework**

- Monitor and ensure adherence to the quality assurance procedures and quality principles stated in the ECB Statistics Quality Framework (SQF), which guides the statistical function of the ECB. The SQF is fully in line with and builds upon the ESCB's public commitment with respect to its statistical function.
  - Revision analysis for general economic statistics based on a vintages database to which revision indicators are applied.
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## **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 2013**

#### **General aspects:**

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

- Following agreement of a timetable by the Statistical Directors group a number of Quality Reviews of OECD Statistical Activities will be carried out during 2012.
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### **5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices (UNESCO)**

#### **Data Quality**

- The UIS has made improving data quality a major component of its current work programme, and systematically measures and reports on a key set of indicators aimed to assess the quality of its survey activities and the content of the international statistical database. In particular, the UIS Quality Monitoring and Reporting Framework aligns UIS strategic objectives to improve the timeliness and completeness of its data with a key set of performance indicators.
- The Insitute is working to improve the efficiency of its data collection and dissemination through the introduction on new statistical tools which support these processes more closely.

#### **Priority objectives beyond 2013**

- Improve the relevance of the current quality reports for all UIS surveys;
  - Improve the transparency of UIS data collection, processing and dissemination;
  - Improve statistical systems.
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### **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.
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### **5.4 Management and development of human resources (ECB)**

#### **Ongoing work:**

- Continue organising training activities on statistics for staff of the ECB, the National Central Banks of the European Union and to a limited extent for other central banks. The topics relate to the ECB relevant statistical fields (e.g. monetary and financial statistics; external statistics; financial accounts; statistical data exchange and SDMX standards, etc.).
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### **5.4 Management and development of human resources (EFTA)**

#### **Ongoing work:**

- 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 2013, the EFTA Secretariat will fund the organisation of three ESTP courses respectively on Geographic Information Systems (Norway), Business registers (Norway), and Survey methodologies and sampling techniques (Switzerland). These courses are provided by EFTA National Statistical Institutes and open for participation of statisticians from EFTA and EU Member States. In return, EFTA statisticians will be invited to participate in all ESTP courses supported and financed by the European Commission (Eurostat). Other applicants may be admitted to the courses depending on the availability of places.

#### **New activities:**

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### **5.4 Management and development of human resources (Eurostat)**

## **Theme 6.02 Statistical training**

**Fields of activities covered by the theme**

## 1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013

### 1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION

### 1.2 ONGOING WORK

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## 5.4 Management and development of human resources (UNECE STAT)

### Description and objectives

• UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on **human resources management and training** in national statistical offices. Based on the outcome of an international workshop on this topic in September 2012, a compilation of best practices will be produced in 2013. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

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## 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 national statistical services of the Commonwealth, 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 the CIS statistical services and foreign countries, including the sites of international statistical organizations.

#### New activities:

- In 2013 work will continue on improving the electronic exchange of statistical information with national statistical services and international organizations.

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

### Theme 6.03 - IT support for statistical production

#### Fields of activities covered by the theme

## 1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013

### 1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION

### 1.2 ONGOING WORK

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

#### Fields of activities covered by the theme

## 1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013

## **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

## **1.2 ONGOING WORK**

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

#### **Statistical Information Collection and Processing**

- An important effort was made to collect and disseminate new statistics and indicators, for short term and also annual data. The new data collection application was designed following the General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), and included the definition of a new coding framework, including coded metadata and annotations system.
- The day to day operations were improved by means of using a tracking information system for monitoring the evolution of the data through the workflow, thus improving the overall quality of the Department outputs.
- As part of the new information system, all the satellite applications were migrated from a SAS (Statistical Analysis Software) environment to the new Oracle environment, and the use of the SAS software is now limited to the processing of data for the purpose of data depuration and statistical analysis.
- As regards data collection, electronic questionnaires will be relied upon to a greater extent to collect data on new as well as more traditional indicators. Data received through electronic questionnaires will be automatically uploaded into the database for prompt dissemination. We will also continue to explore the possibilities of joint data collection with other international agencies (Eurostat, OECD, IMF and others), in order to alleviate the reporting burden on countries by similar international questionnaires. The possibility of exchanging data with EUROSTAT and OECD through SDMX already in place for the Short Term Indicators database, will be expanded during 2013 for other topics and regions.
- The Sources & Methods database, comprising detailed information about methodologies used in the data production by the NSI's, will be adapted to conform to the DDI2 standard.

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

#### **Maintain and support analytical software**

##### ***Purpose***

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

##### ***Objectives and outputs***

- The main objective of the StatWorks/MetaStore developments is to modernise the software platforms for the management of OECD statistics in replacing multiple, non-standard systems with a single, generic application. The applications manage the following statistical production processes: initial data and metadata migration, database administration, security management, data and metadata collection, their importing and validation, calculations, their querying and data export.
- During 2004 the StatWorks software was implemented as a production application. The software is now used to manage 49 different databases containing 224 datasets across all substantive directorates.
- Originally developed by STD, the MetaStore software is being maintained and enhanced since 2008/2009 by ITN. It is used to manage metadata for 150 datasets across all substantive directorates.

## **Main Developments for 2013**

### **General aspects:**

- In 2013, development activities will concentrate on the GUI redesign, streamlining import and export features and integration of SDMX 2.1.
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### **5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UN Statistics Division)**

#### **SDMX**

- Collaborates with IMF, Eurostat, BIS, OECD and World Bank on the development of XML data and metadata exchange standards.
  - UNSD has fully developed data structure for MDG Indicators, now being used for data and metadata exchange among some of the agencies involved in the MDG monitoring. Training is also being provided to some groups of countries who have expressed the interest in adopting the platform for MDG data exchange.
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### **5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UNECE STAT)**

#### **Description and objectives**

- In response to demands from heads of national and international statistical organisations, the UNECE established a High-level Group on Business Architecture in Statistics in 2010. Subject to the decision of the Bureau, this group will have a renewed mandate to oversee and coordinate international work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. The Group coordinates the activities of relevant expert groups in the UNECE region to ensure that they are working towards common goals. This coordination is based on a vision for **industrialising the future production and products of official statistics**, which was endorsed by the CES in June 2011, and a strategy to implement that vision, endorsed by the CES in June 2012.
  - The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on **software sharing** and on the **management of statistical information systems**. A wiki platform contains an inventory of statistical software and other materials available for sharing to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences between statistical organizations. The aim is to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. Topics to be considered during 2013 include the impact of the "open data" movement, and the practical implementation of the Generic Statistical Information Model, which is due to be released at the end of 2012.
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### **5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (World Bank)**

#### **Statistical Information Collection and Processing**

- The World Bank gathers macroeconomic data and projections at least once a year from its country teams in a process known as the Unified Survey. These data and projections are used for planning and evaluating Bank operations. They underlie work on creditworthiness and risk assessment and they are an important part of the Bank's external publications such as the World Development Indicators, the country and regional At-a-Glance tables, and Global Development Finance. These data are collected in a standardized way using the World Bank's country database system known as the Live Database (LDB). The LDB is an Excel based system which standardizes the management of macroeconomic information by organizing information into separate sheets by topic and utilizing indicator codes, common layouts, and a variety of formatting, calculation, and reporting tools.
- The Development Data Platform (DDP), a web-based statistical data collection and dissemination system has integrated and streamlined time-series data management operations at the Bank, and has established a comprehensive platform to support the statistical data collection and dissemination functions of the Bank. Also, the software can be provided to countries to further the goal of statistical capacity building in these countries. The software developed in this project may be installed in these countries.
- The Data Collection System (DCS), is an internal repository for time series data and metadata collection, validation, processing including aggregation to various regional and income based groupings. It is used internally for a wide variety of socio-economic, financial and other topical indicators. The DCS provides data to the DDP (described above). As a platform, DCS is also provided to other organizations which have similar needs for statistical time series data collection and processing.
- The system has also incorporated micro data from household surveys allowing cross-country comparisons on key indicators by welfare status.

#### **SDMX**

- The BIS, ECB, EUROSTAT, IMF, OECD, UN, and the World Bank have set up a partnership to focus on establishing web-based standards for more efficient exchange and sharing of statistical information and metadata, which is called SDMX. As part of this effort the Bank is currently chairing the Sponsor group and actively participating in the SDMX Secretariat activities. The Bank is also a part of the newly formed SDMX

Technical working group. In the SDMX Global Conference hosted jointly by the Bank and IMF much headway was made, and as a follow up to the conference, a new SDMX Action plan was drafted creating a roadmap for SDMX until 2015. The Bank has now capability to accept data in SDMX format and also provides download of the popular WDI database in SDMX-ML format. The Bank also has a SDMX Version 2.1 compatible REST based API for users to query the WDI data. See <http://sdmx.org/>

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

### **Rest of the World-CIS Coordination**

#### **Ongoing work:**

- Coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonizing statistical tools with international standards in the areas of the System of National Accounts, 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.
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## **5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (Eurostat)**

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

#### **Fields of activities covered by the theme**

##### **1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013**

###### **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

###### **1.2 ONGOING WORK**

### **Theme 6.09 - International statistical cooperation**

#### **Fields of activities covered by the theme**

##### **1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013**

###### **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

###### **1.2 ONGOING WORK**

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

#### **Fields of activities covered by the theme**

##### **1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013**

###### **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

###### **1.2 ONGOING WORK**

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## **5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (FAO)**

### **Coordination of International Statistical Work**

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## 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

#### 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](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>.

#### New Work to be undertaken in 2013

- The Statistical Commission in its forty-third session proposed the establishment of a 'Friends of the Chair' group on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system. The group is composed of representatives of twelve Member States and four international organizations.
- The Friends of the Chair group will consider the following issues in 2013 (as well as 2014):
- The priority areas that require coordination and the outcomes desired by Member States.
- Options for implementation of coordination within these areas and the mechanism;
- Reporting back to the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth session in 2013 and 2014 on these matters.

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

### Description and objectives

- UNECE provides the secretariat for the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). **Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region** is one of the key tasks of the CES. Efficient coordination is important for avoiding duplication of work, finding synergies, using resources efficiently and reducing burden on national statistical offices and other international organizations. Furthermore, international cooperation enshrined in the Fundamental Principles of official statistics[1] is an important factor contributing to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

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

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

### In-depth reviews of statistical areas

- The CES Bureau will meet twice in 2013 to **steer** the programme of work of the Conference and ensure that it reflects the priorities of member countries. The Bureau will review in-depth three areas of international statistical work in 2013. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities, identify gaps or duplication of work and address emerging issues. The first topic, **entrepreneurship**, is gaining increasing political attention given the role of entrepreneurs in stimulating economic growth. This calls for development of statistical methodology for measuring entrepreneurship which crosses the boundaries of statistical areas and requires combining data on business demography and performance with characteristics of individuals and households.
- The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is **open data**. The topic was selected for a review in response to the exponentially growing availability of data from different sources, such as government data, administrative registers, web databases, etc. Making use of the increased data supply is an opportunity but also a challenge for official statistics. It raises strategic issues such as how to respond to the competition from private sector and research organisations, and how to deal with methodological issues related to confidentiality, processing, linking and managing large data sets.
- The third in-depth review will be about **political and other community activities, including volunteering**. This area is increasing in importance in societies. Apart from the ILO manual on the *Measurement of Volunteer Work*, many scattered initiatives exist. None of them brings together the measurement of community activities, the role of third sector, volunteering, good governance and social capital.

- In addition, the three in-depth reviews carried out at the end of 2012 on **population ageing; banking, insurance and financial statistics; and poverty statistics** will lead to follow-up work in 2013.

### Database of International Statistical Activities

- The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an annually updated **Database of International Statistical Activities** (DISA) as a tool for coordination. The database is a compendium of the annual statistical programmes of international organizations within the UNECE region. The 2013 issue will be available online to be used by countries and international organizations to foster cooperation and avoid duplication of effort.

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[1] Decision no. C(47) of the Economic Commission for Europe, 1992.

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### **Meetings to be organized in 2013:**

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#### **5.6 Coordination of international statistical work (OECD)**

##### **Co-ordination of OECD Statistical Activities**

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#### **5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (EFTA)**

##### **Technical cooperation**

##### **Ongoing work:**

- 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 coordinate technical assistance toward countries where the European Union and international organisations are also active, through direct involvement of the four EFTA States in statistical programmes and actions run by the European Commission in part also jointly with other partners like the UNECE or IMF. 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 2013, support will be mainly granted to economies in transition in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), Western Balkans and Mediterranean regions (Medstat). EFTA cooperation will give priority to global assessments of national statistical systems in light of the revised European Statistics Code of Practice and the UN fundamental principles of statistics as well as courses, seminars and study visits around the implementation of SNA 2008 and applied statistical production and dissemination methods.

##### **New activities:**

##### **Meeting to be organised in 2013:**

- Joint EFTA/Eurostat/UNECE seminar on "Global assessments and peer reviews – follow-up and next steps", Yalta, UA, 26-28 June.

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#### **5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (Eurostat)**

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

##### **Fields of activities covered by the theme**

##### **1. Work to be carried out by Eurostat in 2013**

##### **1.1 NEW WORK, INCLUDING NEW PLANNED LEGISLATION**

## 1.2 ONGOING WORK

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### 5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (ILO)

#### Technical Assistance

- The statistical capabilities of ILO constituents vary, and a considerable upgrading of capacity is needed in many areas. The ILO provides technical support for labour and decent work statistics to member States in the form of technical advice and assistance, training, manuals, and technical cooperation projects. This assistance is provided under the auspices of the ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes. It is demand-driven, depending on the availability of resources. Requests for assistance may derive from the application of the Labour Statistics Convention 1985 (160).
- Technical assistance is served from the ILO Offices in Bangkok, Dakar, Santiago, Pretoria, Budapest, Moscow, and by National Coordinators, as well as from the ILO Headquarters in Geneva.

#### Training Programme of the ILO Department of Statistics

- The ILO Department of Statistics maintains its training programme to support:
    - a) ILO constituents to increase their capacity to produce reliable statistics and labour market information for the best use in effective decision-making, to achieve decent work for all and;
    - b) to enhance ILO staff knowledge and use of modern statistical methods regarding data collection and analysis so as to optimize their service to member States, to assist them to meet their goals of Decent Work for all.
  - The ILO will conduct its annual LMI2 course on "Designing labour force surveys and labour force modules for household surveys". The course in English will take place on 15-19 April 2013 at the ILO Training Center in Turin, Italy. Planning for the French version of this course will take place in the course of 2013.
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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 help build statistical capacities in developing countries.

##### *Objectives and outputs*

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

##### *Non-member countries involved in the activity:*

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

## **Main Developments for 2013**

### **General aspects:**

- Throughout 2013, PARIS21 and its partners will update and enrich the NSDS guidelines to include best practices collected over the past several years. PARIS21 will also integrate the activities of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics into its regular work programme, which will include developing best practices in reconciling official statistical systems with the innovations of Big Data.

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## **5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (Paris21)**

### **Purpose**

- The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) is an unique initiative that aims to promote the better use and production of statistics throughout the developing world. Since its establishment in 1999, PARIS21 has successfully developed a worldwide network of statisticians, policy makers, analysts, and development practitioners committed to evidence-based decision making.

### **Objectives and outputs**

- With the main objective to achieve national and international development goals and reduce poverty in low and middle income countries, the Partnership facilitates statistical capacity development, advocates for the integration of reliable data in decision making, and co-ordinates donor support to statistics.

### **Non-member countries involved in the activity**

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

## **Main Developments for 2013**

### **General aspects**

- In 2013, in collaboration with bilateral, regional, and international partners, PARIS21 will conduct the next round of its "Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS)." The aim of the exercise will be to report on the activities of providers of development cooperation in support of statistical development, with an ultimate objective of facilitating collaboration. In addition, PARIS21 will roll-out updated NSDS guidelines, enriched with experiences gained over the past several years.

### **Statistical Capacity Building**

#### **Ongoing work:**

- In 2013, ongoing PARIS21 Secretariat work will focus on the facilitation of NSDS implementation, including the establishment of national partnerships of stakeholders around statistics. The national partnership is intended to facilitate a better alignment of external support to the NSDS implementation plan, increased mobilization of resources at the country level, and the use of more efficient and better coordinated funding arrangements for statistical development activities.

#### **Priority objectives**

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

#### **New activities**

- In 2013, PARIS21 will undertake activities as Secretariat of the "Busan Action Plan for Statistics" which updates the priorities and work of the 2004 Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics and provides a framework for the development of statistics globally. PARIS21 will also explore the emerging issues of big and open data and their impact on developing country statistical systems.

## Meetings

PARIS21 Board Meeting

April 2013, Paris, France

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### **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 and geospatial information capacity of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition to routinely collect, compile, store, analyze and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environment fields to produce quality data, including data disaggregated by sex, as well as geospatial information, for national policymakers and for other users at the national and international levels.

#### **Strategy**

- The strategy used by the Division to deliver its capacity-building programme takes the form of (i) training and other initiatives to transfer knowledge and develop the capacity of statisticians, such as workshops and fellowships (study visits); (ii) advisory services, provided by the inter-regional advisors and short-term experts, both staff members and consultants, as resource persons and trainers; and (iii) projects to promote capacity development in a specific region or statistical domain. The capacity building activities conform with the mandated responsibilities of the Division, falling in the following substantive areas: (i) the 2010 round of the World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, including census data analysis and dissemination; (ii) management aspects of national statistical systems, specifically on data management and dissemination, notably of the Millennium Development Goals indicators; (iii) gender statistics; (iv) basic economic statistics, such as international merchandise trade statistics, international trade in services, tourism, energy and industrial statistics, in relation to the national accounts; (v) environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting, especially for Water Accounts and in relation to the Central Framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA); and (vi) geospatial information management.

#### **Ongoing work**

- The main task within the domain of the 2010 round of the World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses will be to continue to assist Member States which have already had a census with the data analysis and dissemination of census results and the rest, which have planned to have a population and housing census by the end of the current round with its conduct. A new three-year project - Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE), executed jointly with the UN Women, will accelerate existing efforts to generate comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and assets. The priorities in other domains are: i) implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA), ii) implementation of the revised recommendations in areas of industrial statistics and indices, energy statistics, international classifications, international trade statistics, and tourism statistics; and iii) implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Indicators (FDES) and the Core Set of Environment Statistics and the Central Framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and SEEA-Water. UNSD also secured donor funding for the improvement of the MDG indicators by reconciling differences between national and international MDGs data sets and filling existing data gaps. Through its regular programme and the donor funded projects UNSD will continue to assist developing countries with capacity development trainings in the areas of MDG indicators, and monitoring of MDGs particularly in view of the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and the post 2015 agenda. The Division is also increasingly providing capacity-building support to member States in the area of geospatial information.

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### **5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UNECE STAT)**

#### **Description and objectives**

- The UNECE aims to **enhance the capacity of national statistical systems** of countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe to implement international standards and guidelines. Particular attention is paid to promoting the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that provide basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

- The UNECE capacity building activities include:

- **Training workshops.**

- **Global assessments** of national statistical systems.

- **Advisory services** provided by the UNECE experts to address country specific needs.

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

#### **Global assessments of national statistical systems**

- The UNECE, together with Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), conducts **global assessments (GA) of national**

**statistical systems** of countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. The purpose is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. This helps the national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and the international donors to focus their technical cooperation activities on the identified needs. GAs recently conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine are expected to result in action plans to improve national statistics according to the recommendations. In 2013, the partner organisations (EFTA, Eurostat and UNECE) will organise a major event for East and South-East European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries, including Turkey, to discuss how to support, monitor and coordinate the implementation of the recommendations provided in the GAs.

- The UNECE capacity building activities are planned based on the findings of global assessments and the needs of the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. In 2013, UNECE will organise sub-regional workshops and advisory services to **address current challenges** in economic, social and environment statistics, streamlining statistical production and improving the indicators for monitoring the achievement of MDGs. The capacity building will be supported by promoting the exchange of national good practices at sub-regional level, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the establishment of networks of experts.

## UN SPECA

- The Programme Working Group on Statistics of the **UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)**<sup>[1]</sup> meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and coordinate donor activities. The UNECE will work in 2013 on the development and fund-raising of three **capacity building programmes**: on economic statistics, including the implementation of the 2008 SNA; regional migration statistics; and streamlining statistical production of SPECA countries. These projects would complement the on-going capacity building activities in the region.

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

## 5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (World Bank)

### Statistical Capacity Building

#### Ongoing work

- The World Bank promotes statistical capacity building (SCB) mainly through financial instruments, advisory services, knowledge products, and partnerships. Our activities are centred around the implementation of the global action plans for statistics, the Marrakech Action Plans for Statistics (MAPS) and the more recent Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS). 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 will close by the end of 2012. The loan included 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 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. The World Bank and the Government of Russia is also in discussion regarding a large scale Reimbursable TA program.
- A \$20 million loan under the STATCAP umbrella for Kazakhstan was approved by the World Bank in March 2011. The main objective of the project is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the national statistical system to provide relevant, timely and reliable data in line with internationally accepted methodology and best practices. The project will upgrade the conceptual, methodological and analytical skills of the Kazakh Agency on Statistics of Republic of Kazakhstan (ASRK) and other data producer and user agencies of the country. The loan agreement was signed in August 2011 and ratified by the Kazakh Parliament in December 2011. The project is currently under implementation.
- The World Bank manages a multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB which aims to strengthen the capacity of statistical systems in developing countries. It supports: i) NSDS projects assisting the preparation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and ii) Statistical capacity improvement projects aiming at strengthening the capacity in key priority areas. TFSCB also funds participation of developing country representatives in meetings, seminars and workshops. TFSCB has financed below projects in the region that are under implementation.
- UNECE: Capacity Building Program on New Challenges in Economic Statistics in Central Asia and Eastern European Countries 2009-2011 \$355,000.
- Turkmenistan: Statistical Capacity Building for Growth and Poverty Reduction \$387,500.

- Piloting and Preparatory Work for 2011 Armenia Population Census \$100,000.
- Russia: Strengthening Subnational Capacity for Analysis of Living Conditions \$259,000.
- Georgia: National Statistics System Development Strategy \$280,000.
- Georgia: Preparatory Work for 2013 Georgia National Population Census \$250,000.
- CIS Statistical Committee Training Program \$375,000.
- Tajikistan: Preparation of the Statistical Master Plan-2 \$80,000.
- Kyrgyz Republic: Preparation of a New Statistical Master Plan \$74,000.
- Russian Federation/CIS: The Need to Develop an Integrated System of Household Surveys to Collect Data on International Migration in the CIS States \$320,000.
- A new Multi Donor Programmatic Trust Fund to Support Statistical Capacity Building in Eastern Europe and CIS Countries has recently been established, with Russian Federation providing funding. ECASTAT's overall objective is to address the capacity and financial constraints of the statistical systems of the countries in the region. ECASTAT will support the long-term process of improving development outcomes by strengthening the production of reliable and relevant data on a timely basis for evidence-based decision making at all levels of government in Eastern Europe and the CIS region. The trust fund will provide funding for regional as well as country specific projects, with a preference for low and lower-middle income countries. ECASTAT is expecting to allocate its first grants in early spring 2013.
- The World Bank maintains a web site on Statistical Capacity Building which provides information on the financial instruments, including STATCAP and TFSCB, advisory services, databases, and reference materials available in support of statistical capacity building. See <http://www.worldbank.org/data/statcap>.
- The World Bank has developed in the last three years the Virtual Statistical System which is an online resource for statisticians and users of statistics with information about how to manage statistical systems and how to make official statistics. The website includes a knowledge base and the VSS e-learning website called Modules for Strengthening Statistics. The site can be found at ([www.virtualstatisticalsystem.org](http://www.virtualstatisticalsystem.org) and [www.sstatsys.org](http://www.sstatsys.org)). The design of the site was an effort of working in partnership with several other international organizations and developed and developing countries.
- The Country Statistical Information Database provides information on national statistical systems useful for assessing statistical capacity and monitoring progress in statistical capacity building in developing countries. The database contains information encompassing various aspects of national statistical systems and operations, such as statistical law, national statistical strategy, statistical practice, censuses and surveys, national statistical agencies and publications, and World Bank statistical projects. It also includes a country-level composite statistical capacity indicator based on evaluation of countries against a set of criteria in the areas of statistical practice, data collection and indicator availability, consistent with international recommendations. In addition, the database allows for cross-country comparisons of selected indicators. See <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/csid.html>.
- The World Bank provides funding to PARIS21 from its development Grant Facility for the implementation of the Accelerated Data Program (ADP), jointly implemented with the World Bank Data Group. The ADP provides support to countries in the areas of microdata documentation, dissemination and preservation. The Russian Federal Service of State Statistics (Rosstat) was introduced to the software and practices promoted by the ADP.
- A web-based tool called the "Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity (BBSC)" is available on the World Bank website. The tool aims to 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/bbbsc>.

## **Open Government**

"The World Bank's Open Data Initiative, launched in April, 2010, provides free, open and easy access to development data, and challenges the global community to use the data to create new solutions to reduce poverty. The World Bank is also responding to developing countries' demand for support to implement vibrant and sustainable open data initiatives. The Bank provides technical assistance and training tools for open data that can be used at the city, sector and national levels (see <http://data.worldbank.org/open-government-data-toolkit>). The Bank is engaged actively in countries such as Moldova, and providing on-demand advice to many other developing countries. By responding to these client demands, the World Bank Group promotes transparency, more efficient public service delivery, and innovation and economic growth. For instance, to enhance budget transparency and accountability, through instruments like BOOST the Bank is simultaneously helping authorities to better analyze, visualize and geo-map government spending for decision-making and making fiscal data more accessible to the public. Many other data driven applications have been created -and are publically available- as a result of Bank sponsored competitions (apps for development, apps for climate, apps for water and similar). The Bank's openness agenda continues to gain momentum, eliminating barriers so that all stakeholders participate, collaborate, and innovate in democratizing development."