

« FICHE CONTRADICTOIRE »

Evaluation of EC support for Statistics in Third Countries

Recommendations	Response of Commission services	Follow-up (one year later)
Recommendations addressing the weak links between the positive results of SPP and development of evidence-based decision-making.		
<p>1 Include systematically, in the design and implementation of SPP, activities promoting the emergence of a culture of evidence-based decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It will be taken into account in new projects; - ensure that Statistical Systems are properly described and evaluated in the CSP's and include where appropriate SPP in NIP's; - ensure the use of the data collected notably by Eurostat for third countries in documents and discussions with the countries; - support the design and implementation of National Strategies for the development of Statistics (NSDS); - continue lobbying for NSDS as a global framework for development of national statistics systems and link with international frameworks such as General Data Dissemination System (GDSS); - focus on effective dissemination and use of statistical data; - promote the use of statistics by policy-makers. 	
<p>2 Insist that identification of statistical projects be based on a triple assessment of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sometimes difficult to fulfil as, for example, if the SPP is part of a larger operation in a different sector; - can be misleading: the information needs to be based to information available for beneficiary own policy development, measurement and monitoring; 	

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<p>(i) the statistical situation,</p> <p>(ii) the information needs linked to the cooperation objectives,</p> <p>and (iii) the components of the institutional statistical system needing strengthening, with a view to improving “evidence-based policy” in the various areas of cooperation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessment of the statistical situation will continue to be carried out of partner countries to enable the components that still need strengthening to be identified and targeted in future cooperation projects; - Establishment by Eurostat of a knowledge base containing information on National Statistical Systems (NSS). - ensure that new statistical projects are designed according to discussions with beneficiaries on their needs, priorities and linked to the cooperation objectives; - ensure that statistical projects carried out are in line with NSDS, ENP Action Plans, CSPs and RSPs; - ensure for Mediterranean countries a proper integration of Medstat in the national work programme and priorities and in other EC or international cooperation programme through country road map. - continue promotion of NSDS aiming at strengthening the statistical system as a whole. 	
<p>3 In the design and implementation of SPP, commit sufficient financial, technical and human resources to ensure smooth transition after project completion as well as to maximise sustainability of the expected results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is particularly relevant to take into account this recommendation for large operations such as censuses; - promote the use of statistics by policy-makers, as a factor to induce financial and human resources support for the production of statistics; - stimulate demand for statistics; - seek commitment of government to allocate sufficient resources for sustainability of the statistical production system; - further develop EC support for training of government statisticians ; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facilitate the transfer of knowledge to the community of users through user groups and training; - ensure continued use of software through maintenance, documentation, training and promotion of sustainable technical solutions. 	
<p>4 Maintain and develop the Commission's fruitful regional approach, but the design of regional statistical interventions should be better adapted to the institutional framework of the partner region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional operations typically have links with the NSS. It requires an analysis for each and every country. It depends on the nature of the action to be financed if doing so is feasible and necessary to achieve the objectives set out; - maintain continued dialogue with Regional Integration Organizations (RIO). In the absence of a RIO, strengthen NSS with the aim of improving data quality and comparability while maintaining a sub-regional approach; - ensure that statistical needs are addressed in the regional policy framework; - support coordination between regional and national level; - concerning the ex-Tacis countries, explore the possibility of boosting the role of the Organisation of "The black Sea Economic Cooperation" as a forum to develop a regional approach to statistical cooperation; - develop EC relations with Paris 21 and Afristat; - Response to World Bank proposal to scaling up efforts to help countries improve their statistical capacity. 	
<p>5 Pursue and enhance the commendable efforts to accompany budget support with institutional building in the area of statistical information provision, with a view to strengthening the statistical system as a whole.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the case of budgetary aid, systematically assess the need for capacity building for the NSS; - include in NIP when and where appropriate. 	

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<p>6 In large projects and non-statistical sector programmes, systematically reserve a share of project resources for institutional development linked to collection and processing of statistical information and make sure it is used for monitoring the policy supported by the project or programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this is to be considered rather on a case by case basis, taking due attention to the fact that support should build on existing structures and established relationships at the country or sector level; - For large projects and sector programme, the need for statistical support for monitoring the policy supported by the programme will systematically be identified in the preparation phase and resources allocated, if needed. However one-off data collection exercises should be avoided, if these take resources away from the sustainable production of core statistics. 	
<p>7 Better articulate SPP and policies related to public administration reform and, where and when possible, include development of statistics in policies associated with budget support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure that government services in charge of compiling official statistics coordinate these activities with the National Statistical Office to meet statistical standards; - for statistical purposes, encourage access for statistical services to administrative data; - initiate thoughts on measuring performance of NSS. 	
<p>Recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of SPP.</p>		
<p>8 To assist the Commission Services in the dialogue they engage in with partners on preparation of statistical interventions, produce guidelines and checklists on how to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the statistical system in relation to the information needs of the priority policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission is currently preparing a Guide on statistical cooperation. It is foreseen to include in this guide tools to assess needs and strengths in a number of key areas of EC cooperation, how to use statistics and how to support statistical capacity building in partner countries and regions. 	

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<p>9 In the design and implementation of SPP, strengthen those elements that the evaluation has shown to enhance the technical quality of the support provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consult systematically Eurostat to ensure technical quality of support and international statistical coordination; - continue participation in international meetings to coordinate statistical support; - continue coordination of statistical support of EU Member States (Advisory Group to Eurostat); - study with the ACP Secretariat the possibility to set up a project to facilitate trainings, study tours and technical assistance missions for national statisticians; - Promote technical assistance and training through twinning – identify potential partners; - the new SPPs will be based in addition to Eurostat advisory and coordinating role, to Aidco's quality support guidelines and the further development of the twinning instrument. 	
<p>10 Prior to engaging in statistical interventions, conduct a thorough assessment of the country statistical situation, if not done already, and draw up with the partner a strategy for the development of statistics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bear in mind the relative size of the statistical intervention, scope and possibility for sustained assistance to implement a country wide statistical development programme; - support design and implementation of NSDS, as endorsed by the appropriate authority in the partner country, in coordination with the WB and Paris 21; - pursue the establishment, maintenance and use of Eurostat's knowledge base. 	

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<p>11 Make better use of the competences and resources of those regional and sub-regional organizations with statistical responsibilities and better knowledge of local situations and capacities, by increasing their level of responsibility in the design and implementation of statistical projects; and where possible use contribution agreements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the choice of an implementation modality as for example contribution agreement is made on a basis of non-statistical consideration; - focus on training for statistics trainers in regional and sub regional organisations; - further develop the south-south cooperation ,i.e. using local or regional capacities to provide TA; - use of contribution agreements with RIOs, if conditions are met; - encourage networking or twinning of universities, so that bests practices are included already in the university education of statisticians and users of statistics (e.g. economists) in partner countries; - promote better use and relations with Afristat and Paris 21. 	
<p>12 Aim to enhance the potential gains in economies of scale and effectiveness through cooperation with other multilateral and bilateral agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this is part of the application of the Paris declaration principles on donor's coordination and cooperation. - initiative to strengthen coordination at international level by e.g. sharing diagnosis and assessment studies with other donors, and by agreeing on the division of cooperation work between agencies; - explore possibilities of joint projects within the work of the Advisory Group; - pursue and develop dialogue and cooperation with WB in statistics and in the OECD/DAC framework. 	

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Recommendations aimed at improving information on Commission activities in support of statistics in third countries		
<p>13 Improve information structures and flows on statistical projects and programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish procedures for regular collection, compilation and wide dissemination of information about EC current and future statistical projects; - the language use for dissemination purposes will be Considered, e.g. for Medstat the use of Arabic. - The information structure is to be decided by each project and programme. 	
<p>14 Increase the level of basic statistical knowledge in the Delegations to help them better participate in preparation and implementation of SPP in the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -statistical training is available and the upcoming statistical guide is expected to contribute to improving statistical capacity for cooperation purposes. - seeing shortage of specialized staff in the EC Delegations, the issue is rather focussing in optimizing recourse to Aidco thematic networks and a better structured support from Eurostat. 	