



Evaluation of the Commission Support for Statistics in Third Countries

Final Report

Volume II – Annexes

February 2007

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Annex 1 – Terms of Reference



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EuropeAid Co-operation Office

General affairs
Evaluation

Evaluation of EC Support for Statistics in Third Countries

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft

05/10/2005

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN EVALUATION OF EC SUPPORT FOR STATISTICS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN EVALUATION OF EC Support for Statistics in third countries

1. Mandate

Systematic and timely evaluation of its expenditure programmes is an established priority for the European Commission (EC), and the 2005 evaluation plan included an evaluation of EC support for Statistics in third countries to fulfil its obligation to render accounts for the management of allocated funds and the results achieved.

It has been decided to undertake this evaluation also in the light of the fact that there has never been an overall evaluation of this type of actions dates back to. An evaluation of this sector is further merited by the introduction of reforms in both country and regional strategy programming and in aid delivery.

The period to be covered by this evaluation is the last 10 years (1996-2005).

2. Importance of Statistics and Policy Backgrounds

Statistics have a dual role in co-operation:

- as a tool for measuring the progress of the different policy areas and for policy development and implementation. The EC bases its monitoring of especially Budget Support operations (either General or Sector) on existing national statistics. To reach this goal, support has to be given for building up this statistical capacity.

- via statistical capacity building programmes, to assist countries and regions in the development of their statistical systems with the aim of providing quality data for economic and social planning and monitoring. Many countries, in particular developing countries, do not have sustainable statistical systems capable of providing policy makers, the general public and the economic and social partners with the statistics they need to take sound policy and strategy decisions.

Regardless of region, capacity building activities like legislation, strategic programming, statistical training and quality issues will be of great importance. There is also a need for developing statistical competence covering themes prominent in the wider development context (e.g. MDG monitoring should mainly be part of the sector monitoring e.g. education, Good Governance).

Statistical co-operation is in principle related to priorities identified within the Indicative Programmes of the Regional and National Strategy Papers (RSPs and CSPs). Statistical programmes/projects provide appropriate and focused statistical technical assistance in order to strengthen statistical capacity in countries and regions benefiting from EU aid. Regional statistical projects and programmes have a special focus on harmonisation of statistics, legislation, methodological support, training and assistance for data production and data dissemination relevant for regional policy making. Regarding the EC support, we can observe an evolution during the last 10 years in the types of supported projects and programmes but also in the kinds of followed approaches.

The projects have taken various forms:

- long term consecutive statistical support projects
- projects at national and regional levels

- institutional capacity building projects, training projects (including scholarships) and surveys and censuses (e.g. population or agricultural censuses)

- purely statistical projects and statistical activities as a sub-module of larger programmes

More particularly the different regions that benefit from EC funding, some descriptions of the legal basis, main current projects and an estimation of the amounts committed are mentioned in annex 2

3. Management and implementation of SPP

The management and the implementation of SPP is shared between the Commission Services and the beneficiaries where individual experts, companies, government services (e.g. experts of the Statistical Offices of the EU Member States) and specialised UN agencies (e.g. FAO,FNUAP,UNFPA) provide technical assistance.

Different situations can be observed: in many cases, the SPP benefited from technical advice and assistance provided by Eurostat during the programming and implementation phases. The degree of intervention varied from programme to programme. In specific cases, EC funded projects were managed and implemented by UN agencies (FAO, UNCTAD, FNUAP) or in co financing or via NGO's.

Since 2003, in line with the devolution process, the management of EC funded projects is more and more deconcentrated to EC Delegations.

During the years 2003 and 2004, the respective roles of Eurostat and Europe-Aid/AIDCO , DG-DEV, DG RELEX and EC Delegations in the programming and implementation stages of EC financed projects/programmes have been clarified through an exchange of letters between the respective Directorates General. The references of these letters are in Annex 1

4. Purpose of the evaluation

The purpose of the present evaluation is to analyse the results obtained by the Statistics Projects/Programmes (SPP) compared with the general and specific objectives defined for the programme, and draw the key lessons in order to help improve relevance, impact, sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of the current range of SPPs. In this way the evaluation will contribute to the accountability of external cooperation programmes.

In other words, one major purpose of this study is to provide elements to improve current practice concerning programming, designing and implementing SPPs.

It requires considering the various types of projects, including the completed ones, in various regions, over time.

This may have to be scaled down as to ensure the relevance of the conclusions and their operational nature. Extrapolating the conclusions of one type of project (e.g. financing a census) to all others (including support to training centres) may only be possible and relevant within certain limits.

As part of its mission, the evaluation should end upto a general overall judgement based on well-founded conclusions regarding the past performance of EC support to SPP and the relevance of

its (proposed) approach. In the analysis, it is necessary to assess performance of the technical assistance as well as of national and regional partner bodies.

The evaluation should serve the purposes of the policy and sector decision-making process and programme management. Therefore, the final report should contain findings and recommendations expressed clearly enough to be translatable into operational terms by the Commission.

The recommendations should also focus on operational and programming purposes without overlooking individual projects. They can also serve as inputs for the practical guide on statistical projects that ESTAT intends to finalize soon in close collaboration with EuropeAid/AIDCO/E.

This requires addressing the principal concerns regarding support to SPP to the Commissioners of the RELEX family, as well as to those relevant to the RELEX family services, in particular DGs RELEX, DEV and AIDCO.

Apart from these central services, also EC Delegations in the countries covered by this study will be among the main users of the evaluation results. However, the evaluation should also generate results of interest to an audience that would include geographical desks and those responsible for intervention in other sectors such as Budgetary Support.

5. Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation will cover the Commission's actions in the field of the on-going and finished SPPs during the last 10 years (1996-2005). An indicative list of SPPs is in annex 4. The study will also include the budgetary aid programs (PRBS) where a statistical component is included. The study will begin by reviewing the evolution of Commission's policies regarding support to statistics, to the extent these exist.

This review will be based upon SPP relevant Commission policy statements, relevant sector guidelines, instructions on programming and on the design of programme interventions, the results of evaluations of SPP as well as on other relevant themes or sectors.

The countries to be covered during the field phase of this evaluation will be proposed and selected during the desk- phase, following the criteria to be agreed with the Reference Group (RG) consisting of members of the RELEX family services as well as other relevant Directorate Generals (i.e. ESTAT).

The consultant should also consider approaches/practices on SPP by other major donors. These are mainly the UK, Sweden, Finland, Germany and France as far as EU Members States are concerned, and World Bank and UN bodies as far as multilateral organisations are concerned.

Evaluation Questions

The evaluation will be based on a set of key questions. These questions are intended to give a more precise and accessible form to the evaluation criteria (see §5 below) and to articulate the key issues of concern to stakeholders, thus optimising the focus and utility of the evaluation.

Identified in the first instance by the evaluation team, these evaluation questions (a maximum of 10) should be grouped in accordance with the main issues relating to the Commission co-

operation through SPPs. After initial discussions with the Evaluation Unit, the evaluation questions will be discussed with the RG, which will validate an agreed set of Evaluation Questions.

For each Evaluation Question (EQ) there should be at least one appropriate Judgement Criterion, and for each such criterion the appropriate quantitative and qualitative Indicators will be identified and specified. This, in turn, will determine the appropriate scope and methods of data collection (see below).

Questions should be drafted in such a way that they clearly reflect an evaluation exercise (which calls for a judgement of quantity, quality and/or intensity).

Although statistical support is a crosscutting issue, one Evaluation Question could be dedicated to assessing how far the programme has integrated **other crosscutting issues** (such as gender, environment, human rights, capacity building). Another question shall be dedicated to how far the programme under study took account of **co-ordination, complementarity and coherence** aspects (as mentioned in Article 177 of the Maastricht Treaty).

Besides specific answers, the evaluation questions shall also lead the evaluators to produce an overall assessment of the EC support to SPPs within its context.

6. The Evaluation's Basic Components

The basic approach to the evaluation will consist of four **main phases** (see dedicated chapter below) in the course of which **four sequential methodological stages** will be developed. This approach will call upon **five key evaluation criteria**.

Four Main Phases of Evaluation

- Desk Phase
- Field Phase
- Report-Writing Phase
- Dissemination and Feedback of findings and recommendations

Four Methodological Stages

- Structuring of the evaluation
- Data Collection
- Analyses
- Judgements

Five Key Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation must lead to a set of conclusions (based on findings and analyses) and to related recommendations. The assessment will be based on five key evaluation criteria: impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The adopted approach should include the following basic tasks:

- Identify, explain and prioritise the objectives of the EC's Support for SPPs in terms of their intervention context, logic and coherence. Identify key clusters or major areas of activity where SPPs have been focused, with a view to subsequent analyses. Assess the **relevance** of SPPs objectives, programmes and actions, both to the Commission's and EU's more general objectives and to the priorities and needs of beneficiary countries, regions and populations;
- Identify all recorded **impacts**. Assess the intended impact corresponding to each objective, indicating how these intended impacts fit within broader and changing (economic, political, sociological, cultural, environmental) contexts. Identify unintended impacts or substitution effects (and compare them to intended impacts);
- Assess **effectiveness** in terms of how far the intended results were achieved (actual results);
- To the extent that the interventions were effective, assess the **efficiency** of SPP support in terms of how far funding, personnel, regulatory, administrative, time and other resources and procedures contributed to, or hindered the achievement of results;
- Assess the **sustainability** of the strategy/strategies and their component programmes, that is the extent to which their results and impacts are being, or are likely to be, maintained over time.

In addition, it is necessary to assess the added value of the actions.

7. The Evaluation's Four Phases and Reporting

7.1. Desk Phase

Starting the Evaluation and producing a Launch Note

Prior to embarking on the structuring phase of this study, a Launch Note will be submitted to the Evaluation Unit in which the consultant will set out: (i) the team's understanding of the Terms of Reference, (ii) the proposed composition of the evaluation team (with CVs), (iii) the proposed timing, and (iv) a budget proposal.

The Evaluation Unit's approval of the Launch Note marks the official start of the study; copies will go to the members of the RG.

Structuring the Evaluation and drafting an Inception Note

Once the Launch Note has been approved (after any agreed amendments have been made), work will proceed with the Structuring Stage of the evaluation and shall lead to the production of an Inception Note for consideration by the Evaluation Unit and the RG.

The Inception Note will be prepared in two steps (A and B):

A. Step A

1. The very first element is the logical diagram which is to be based only on existing base documents. Any missing elements and 'holes' should be indicated and completed on the basis of assumptions/hypothesis that are to be validated by the RG. The diagram should be accompanied by an analysis of the intervention logic and make explicit the expected effects (each "box" of the diagram) of each objective.

2. Elaboration of the proposed evaluation questions (EQ), to be validated by the RG. The EQ should be accompanied by explanatory comments.

After the presentation of the proposed EQ to the RG (meeting), the RG will not take more than one week to validate them.

B. Step B

During the second part of work on the Inception Note, the evaluation team will complete the already validated elements by the following:

1. The context in which the evaluation is conducted;
2. The proposed judgement criteria for each EQ;
3. The provisional indicators for each of the proposed judgement criteria;
4. The proposed work programme to collect data and other information at headquarters;
5. The proposed working methods for data gathering at headquarters;
6. The proposed approach for data collection and other information gathering during the field phase, including a provisional selection of countries for case-studies.

The Inception Note will be transmitted to the Evaluation Unit one month and a half after the formal start of the study, and be discussed (possibly through electronic mail) and validated by the RG one week after its reception. The team will then have one week to produce the final version of the Inception Note.

Desk phase report

This report, to be submitted three months after the start of the evaluation, will be drafted in English and be structured as set out in Annex 2.

7.2. Field Phase

Following satisfactory completion of the Desk Phase, the evaluation team will proceed to the field missions (see calendar below). The fieldwork, the duration of which shall be cleared with the RG, shall be undertaken on the basis set out in the Final Desk Phase Report and agreed by the RG and by the EC Delegations of countries proposed for visits. Field visits should reflect the importance of SPPs in terms of volume of resources devoted in different regions, their specificity, the need for geographical diversity, and the need to illustrate/validate preliminary evaluation findings through analysis of well-chosen case studies. If during the course of the

fieldwork any significant deviations from the agreed methodology or schedule are perceived as being necessary, these should be explained to the Reference Group through the Evaluation Unit.

At the conclusion of the field study the team will (i) give a detailed on-the-spot de-briefing to each Delegation in chosen countries on their provisional findings; (ii) give a general de-briefing (based on all missions) to the RG in Headquarters soon after returning from the field; and (iii) proceed to prepare the Field Mission Report for delivery to the Evaluation Unit no later than ten working days after the general de-briefing. This report will be presented to, and debated within the RG.

7.3. Report-Writing Phase

The Final Report (as well as previous notes and reports) will be drafted in English, and be structured as set out in Annex 2.

The evaluation team will deliver a Draft Final Report to the Evaluation Unit no later than **May 2006**. On acceptance, the report will be circulated for comments to the Reference Group, which will convene to discuss it about 15 working days after circulation, in the presence of the evaluation team.

On the basis of comments received both from the RG and the Evaluation Unit, the evaluation team will make the appropriate final amendments and submit their Final Report to the Evaluation Unit within one month of the last meeting. The evaluators may either accept or reject the comments made by the RG-members, Delegations' staff, or relevant stakeholders, but, in case of rejection, they shall explain (in writing) their refusal and annex the relevant comments and their responses to the report.

The drafting of the Final Report (as well as previous reports and notes) must be of outstanding quality. The findings, analyses, conclusions and recommendations should be thorough. They should reflect a methodical and thoughtful approach, and finally their logical arguments should be clear. They will also take into account the recommendations and guidelines established by the Paris21 initiative.

7.4. Dissemination and Follow-Up

After approval of the final report, the Evaluation Unit will proceed with the Dissemination of the results (conclusions and recommendations) contained within this Report. The Unit will: (i) make a formal Judgement on the Quality of the evaluation; (ii) draft a 2-page Evaluation Summary; (iii) circulate a Fiche Contradictoire for discussion with the relevant Services. The Quality Judgement, the summary, and the Fiche Contradictoire will all be published on the Evaluation Unit's Web-site alongside the Final Report.

Furthermore, the evaluation team (or selected members) may, on the basis of the Final Report, participate in a Seminar in Brussels during which they will make a presentation to the EC services and relevant stakeholders on the evaluation's findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The organisation of such event will depend on the expression of the Commission's interest and on the availability of sufficient time and resources.

8. Management and Supervision of the Evaluation

The management and supervision of the evaluation will rest with the Joint Evaluation Unit at EuropeAid Co-operation Office.

The progress of the evaluation will be followed closely by a Commission internal Reference Group consisting of members of the RELEX family services as well as other relevant Directorate Generals under the chairmanship of the Evaluation Unit.

The principal functions of this Reference Group will be:

- to discuss the Terms of Reference drawn up by the Evaluation Unit as well as the evaluation questions proposed by the consultants;
- to discuss the inception note and subsequent reports (see section 9 below) produced by the consultants;
- to act as interface between the consultants and Commission services;
- to provide the consultants with information and documentation on activities undertaken in the sector;
- to advise on the quality of work done by the consultants;
- to assist in incorporating the findings and recommendations from the evaluation into future programme design and delivery.

9. Evaluation Team

This evaluation is to be carried out by a team with advanced knowledge of, and experience in at least the following fields: development co-operation policy, statistics, budgetary support. Consultants should also possess an appropriate training and documented experience in the management of evaluations, as well as evaluation methods in field situations. The team should comprise consultants familiar with the different regions covered.

The agreed Team composition may subsequently be adjusted if necessary in the light of the Evaluation Questions once they have been validated by the Reference Group.

The Evaluation Unit recommends strongly that consultants from beneficiaries countries be employed (particularly, but not only, during the Field Phase).

10. Timing and Budget

10.1. Timing

The evaluation will start in **September 2005** with completion of the Final Report scheduled for **June 2006**. The following is the indicative schedule:

The dates mentioned in the above table may only be changed in order to optimise the evaluation performance, and with the agreement of all concerned. ** Subject to agreement by the Evaluation Unit.

Evaluation's Phases and Stages	Notes and Reports	Dates	Meetings	Dates
DESK PHASE		Starts September 2005		
Starting Stage	Launch Note	October 2005		

Structuring Stage	Inception Note	End October 2005	RG Meeting	Early November 2005
Desk Study	Draft Desk Report	Early December 2005	RG Meeting	Mid December 2005
	Final Desk Report	End December 2005		
FIELD PHASE		January-February 2006		
	Debriefing post-field phase	End February 2006	Presented to the RG	End February 2006
	Field Phase Report	March 2006	RG Meeting	End March 2006
FINAL REPORT-WRITING PHASE	Draft Final Report	Mid May 2006	RG Meeting	May 2006
	Final Report	June 2006		
DISSEMINATION	Seminar	September 2006		

10.2. Cost of the Evaluation and Payment Modalities

The cost of the evaluation will not exceed €250.000. Payment modalities shall be as follow: 30% at the acceptance of the Inception Note, 50% at acceptance of Draft Final Report and 20% at acceptance of Final report.

Annex 1 : Relevant documentation (none exhaustive list)

- General

Eurostat's 5-year work programme 2003-2007

CRIS database and the ROM system (results oriented management)

Joint declaration by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the European Union Development Policy (SEC(2005)929)(July 2005)

- Different Regions

- ACP countries

Agreement amending the ACP-EC Agreement (Partnership agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000), revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005.

Overseas Association Decision (Council Decision 2001/822/EC of 27 November 2001 on the association of overseas countries and territories with the European Community)

Regulation (EC) N°1726/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29.6.2000 on development co-operation with South Africa

- Tacis countries and Mongolia

Council Regulation (EC, EURATOM) N°99/2000 of 29 December 1999 concerning the provision of assistance to the partner States in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCA) – Strategy papers – Indicative programmes – Action programmes – Tacis/ENP Country reports

European Neighbourhood Policy/Wider Europe Initiative

- Mediterranean countries

Council Regulation n° 1488/1996, of 23 July 1996, amended by Council Regulation n° 2698/2000, of 27 November 2000

(MEDA programme)

Association and Co-operation Agreements

European Neighbourhood Policy/ Wider Europe Initiative

- ALA countries

Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America

Association and Co-operation Agreements

- Estat (actual denomination of Eurostat)

Reports of Eurostat and CESD

Eurostat's strategy on technical co-operation in statistics of 24 February 2004

Note on Co-operation with ACP countries, Tacis, Mediterranean countries and ALA countries (September 2004 – preparation for the hearings of the new Commission)

Relations between AIDCO and Eurostat (notes AIDCO/19378 of 9th June 2004 and AIDCO/23417 of 14th July 2003)

- EC Evaluations

Evaluations of different projects/programmes in statistics: to be provided through the Reference Group

Parstat – Evaluation technique et institutionnelle finale – IDC – Paris – décembre 2003.

Tacis monitoring reports – Tacis/ENP country reports

- Budgetary Support

Guide Méthodologique pour la programmation et la mise en oeuvre des appuis budgétaires dans les pays tiers (DG-DEV, mars 2002)

Lignes Directrices pour l'utilisation d'indicateurs dans l'appréciation de la performance-pays (DG-DEV, décembre 2002)

Indicateurs de référence pour la Sécurité Alimentaire (Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale - FAO, septembre 2000)

Budgetary Support: Urgent Aspects to be addressed (Note to head of Delegations in ACP countries – AIDCO/C2, N°25241 – 8 July 2002)

Guidelines for monitoring progress in health, AIDS and Population (DG-DEV, February 2003)

Tools for monitoring progress in the Education Sector (DG- DEV, 26/2/2003)

Selecting indicators to monitor the performance of the transport sector and its impact on development (Note to Head of Delegation – DEV/B5 – N° 1747(16/4/2002) and 3542(31/7/2002).

EC Budget Support : An innovative approach to conditionality (February 2005)

- Useful web-sites

UNDP – www.undp.org (especially the file [governance/cd/documentst/53.ppt](#))

Paris 21 – www.paris21.org

EC/Evaluation – europa.eu.int/comm./evaluation/index_en.htm

OECD – www.oecd.org/dac (especially the statistics newsletters)

Estat – www.cc.cec/home/dgserv/index_fr.html

World Bank – www.worldbank.org

Annex 2: Some elements regarding the different regions

- **All countries:** Crosscutting the different regions, there is one project in education with UNESCO institute of statistics financed under a thematic budget line.

- **ACP countries:** The cooperation is based on the Cotonou Agreement providing the framework for a 20-year partnership for development aid to 77 ACP countries. The agreement entered into force on 1 April 2003. In 2004, the negotiation on the revision of the Agreement took place, culminating in a global agreement on 23 February 2005. The revised Agreement was signed on 25 June 2005 and has yet to be ratified.

The legal basis is composed of 3 documents listed in annex 1. There is no specific mention of this sector in the official documents.

The main current projects are : Regional statistical programmes with ECOWAS (2 M€), UEMOA (~10 M€), CEMAC (0,5 M€), SADC (7,8 M€), COMESA (~13 M€) and PALOP (2,4 M€) as well as a statistical training programme for all ACP ; most of these programmes end in 2005/2006; under the 9th EDF identification and feasibility studies are under way for new regional statistical programmes; in addition to the above mentioned regions there will be a new statistical programme with CARICOM (~6 M€).

According to databases (CRIS, Estat and Rom), a large amount of fundings (more than 200 M€) was committed to SPP actions.

- Mediterranean countries:

The legal basis is composed of the following documents: Council Regulation n° 1488/1996, of 23 July 1996, amended by Council Regulation n° 2698/2000, of 27 November 2000 - MEDA programme - Association and Cooperation Agreements and the European Neighbourhood Policy/ Wider Europe Initiative, of 12 May 2004. There seems to be no mention of this sector in these official documents, neither any specific provision for statistics.

The regional MEDSTAT programme is the main statistical component of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership established in 1995 at the Barcelona Conference. Its objectives are to assist the Mediterranean Partners in developing their statistical services to meet the social and economic information requirements (see Barcelona Declaration) and to provide the various decision-makers with reliable, comparable and timely statistical data for several domains such as external trade, tourism, transport, migrations, environment, national accounts/non observed economy, information systems and training. End 2002, the decision regarding the continuation of MEDSTAT was taken including agricultural and social statistics. All the sub programmes of phase II (30m€) will be launched this year. Furthermore, the regional cooperation is complemented by bilateral programmes with Palestine, Syria and Lebanon; further countries are still under consideration.

According to databases (CRIS, Estat and Rom), around 80 M€ was committed to SPP actions.

- ALA countries

The legal basis is composed of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America.

There seems to be no mention of this sector in this official document, neither any specific provision for statistics.

Latin America:

The EU's relations with Latin American countries have developed at the bi-regional level (European Union-Latin America), and a number of specialised dialogues within this broader relationship are ongoing with specific sub-regions (the Mercosur, Andean Community, and Central America), and between the EU and specific nations (Mexico and Chile).

A full range of co-operation agreements have been concluded at each of the levels, based on the three pillars of economic co-operation, institutionalised political dialogue and the strengthening of trade relations; in most cases they include an Article on Statistics.

The main current projects are: EC-Andean Community statistical cooperation project (5 Mio € 4 years), a new multi-annual statistical co-operation programme with Mercosur (2 M€), a project for the regional integration of Central America: PAIRCA and a Latin-America wide project "Social Initiative" aimed at improving policies for inequalities reduction.

Asia:

The Commission produced an overall Asia Strategy paper in 1994 under the title "Towards a New Asia Strategy". Currently the first priority in the region with statistical implication is with ASEAN. Co-operation between the EU and ASEAN is based on a Co-operation Agreement (1980) between the EC and member countries of ASEAN. In September 2001, the European Commission's presented its Communication "Europe and Asia: A Strategic Framework for Enhanced Partnerships", which identified ASEAN as a key economic and political partner of the EC. In July 2003, the Commission Communication 'A New Partnership with South East Asia' reaffirmed the importance of the EC-ASEAN partnership

The main statistics-related activities are: New statistical cooperation programme with ASEAN (4 Mio €) - advice on a national indicative programme for Pakistan which includes a component of statistical cooperation. –

Tacis countries

The legal basis is the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 99/2000 of 29 December 1999), concerning the provision of assistance to the partner states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The assistance provided can be divided into three main periods:

- An initial programme, funded by a Tacis Inter-state budget (1992-94), was driven by common NIS (New Independent States) inter-state priorities and organised as two sub-programmes of a regional nature: technical assistance and training. Most activities were organised at interstate or sub-regional level.

A second interstate programme (“Statistics 1”, 1994-99), also included Mongolia. In this period EU-Tacis statistical co-operation focused on national priorities without disregarding multi-country initiatives, concentrated on priority areas and selected national and regional projects.

- A third period, made of national programmes, (“Statistics 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7”, 1996-2005). The programmes are more and more targeted at national needs and at the creation of an infrastructure for statistics, but foresee horizontal activities such are thematic meetings at international level.

Annex 3: Outline Structure for the Reports

- Outline Structure of the Desk Phase Report

Part 1: Reconstruction of the hierarchy, logic, related assumptions and intended impacts of the **objectives of the EC's interventions** in SPP

Part 2: Presentation of the **key evaluation questions, judgement criteria** and associated **indicators**.

Part 3: **Analysis of the information and data** available at the end of the first phase and indications of any missing data, so as to inform the work plan and choice of countries for the field phase.

Part 4: Proposed **field phase methodology** (methods of enquiry, data collection and sampling, etc. vis-à-vis the information sought) with concrete proposal and examples.

Part 5: Proposed **analysis methodology** based on sound and recognised methods used for evaluation.

- Outline Structure of the Final Report

Length: The Final Report should not be longer than 50 pages (including the executive summary). Additional information on overall context, programme or aspects of methodology and analysis should be confined to annexes.

1. Executive Summary

Length: 3-4 pages maximum

This executive summary must produce the following information:

- 1.1 – Purpose of the evaluation;
- 1.2 – Background to the evaluation;
- 1.3 – Methodology; specific tools used for this study;
- 1.4–Analysis and main 5 to 6 findings of the Evaluation;
- 1.5 – 3 to 5 Main conclusions;*
- 1.6 – 2 to 4 Main recommendations.*

* Conclusions and recommendations must be ranked and prioritised according to their relevance to the evaluation and their importance, and they should also be cross-referenced back to the key findings. Length-wise, the parts dedicated to the conclusions and recommendations should represent about 40 % of the executive summary

2. Introduction

Length: maximum 5 pages

- 2.1. Synthesis of the Commission's Strategies and Programmes: their objectives, how they are prioritised and ordered, their logic both *internally* (ie. The existence – or not – of a logical link between the EC policies and instruments and expected impacts) and *externally* (ie. within the context of the needs of partner countries, government policies, and the programmes of other donors);

the implicit assumptions and risk factors; the intended impacts of the Commission's interventions.*

2.2. Context: very brief analysis of the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions affecting trade development in third countries.

2.3 Purpose of the Evaluation: presentation of the evaluative questions and of how they will permit to assess the country strategy and programme.

3. Methodology

Length: maximum 10 pages

In order to answer the evaluative questions a number of methodological instruments must be presented by the consultants:

3.1. Judgement Criteria: which should have been selected (for each Evaluation Question) and agreed upon by the steering group;

3.2. Indicators: attached to each judgement criterion. This in turn will determine the scope and methods of data collection;

3.3. Data and Information Collection: can consist of literature review, interviews, questionnaires, case studies, etc. The consultants will indicate any limitations and will describe how the data should be cross-checked to validate the analysis.

3.4. Methods of Analysis: of the data and information obtained for each Evaluation Question (again indicating any eventual limitations);

3.5. Methods of Judgement

4. Main Findings and Analysis

Length: 20 to 30 pages

4.1. Answers to each Evaluation Question, indicating findings and conclusions for each;

4.2. Overall assessment of the EC Strategy. This assessment should cover:

Relevance to needs and overall context, including development priorities and co-ordination with other donors;

Actual Impacts: established, as well as unforeseen impacts or deadweight/substitution effects, and compare to intended impacts;

Effectiveness in terms of how far the intended results were achieved:

Efficiency: in terms of how far funding, personnel, regulatory, administrative, time and other resource considerations contributed or hindered the achievement of results;

Sustainability: whether the results can be maintained over time without EC funding or other external support.

5. A Full Set of Conclusions and Recommendations

Length: maximum 10 pages

A Full set of Conclusions* and Recommendations* (i) for each evaluation question; (ii) as an overall judgement of the country programme and strategy vis a vis the country needs. (As an introduction to this chapter a short mention of the main objectives of the country programmes and whether they have been achieved)

*All conclusions should be cross-referenced back by paragraph to the appropriate findings. Recommendations must be ranked and prioritised according to their relevance and importance to the purpose of the evaluation (also they shall be cross-referenced back by paragraph to the appropriate conclusions).

Annex 4 - Indicative List of SPPs

COUNTRY/REGION	Amount million €	Title	N° project
ACP			
NATIONAL			
Lesotho	1,1	Assistance to the Bureau of Statistics	7 LSO 045
Nigeria	1,825	Programme de réhabilitation du SSN, STATMAD	6 MAG 126
Nigeria	8,5 (statistics)	EMCAP, Economic Management Capacity Project Multi-donor: EC 4,3	?
Sao Tomé	4,4	Recensement national de l'agriculture	8 IVC/005
Rwanda	0.2	Recensement de la population	8 STP 002
Rwanda	7	Idem	8 RW 018
Niger	1,1	Idem	8 NIR 26
Niger	1,5	Idem	8 NIR 026
Niger	6,1	Recensement Général de l'Agriculture et du Cheptel	9ème FED
Rép. Centrafricaine	1,9	Recensement de la population	7 CA 059
Rép. Centrafricaine	?	Audit du système statistique	8 CA 012/013/014 PAAS 2000-2001
Sénégal	?	Projet d'appui au programme national de Bonne Gouvernance – volet statistique	9 FED
Togo	0,75 + 2?	Recensement de la population	8 HA 042 ?
Haïti	2	Recensement de la population	8 ANG 013
Total	1,85		9 NIR 01/9118
			7 LSO 045
Togo	2 ?	Recensement de la population.	
Mali	0.525	Recensement de la population	Reliquats 5, 6 et FED

ACP			
REGIONAL			
COMSTAT	9,65	Appui à la formation statistique (1994-1998)	7 RPR 308
COMSTAT ext	1	High level statistical training (1999 – 2000)	
COMSTAT ext2	1,96	High level statistical training (2000 – 2002)	8 TPS 091 8 TPS 155
EASTC	5	Eastern Africa Statistical training center	7 RPR 284
UEMOA	4,6	PARI 1 - PARSTAT – Regional statistical support programme	7 RPR 576
UEMOA		PARI 2 –statistical activities	
AFRISTAT	0,9	Prosmic	7 RPR 590
CEDEAO	1,95	Ecostat	8 ROC 044
COMESA 9th EDF	30	Regional integration with a Statistics module/(to be launched)	9 RSA 019
COMESA	3,5	Statistical training Customs and Trade statistics	8 ROR 013

COMESA 1	6,7	RHCTSS	
COMESA 2	13,6		8 ROR 001
EAC	0,2	Support for economic integration	7 RPR 721
SADC	1,9	Price indexes	8 RAU 013
SADC	4,8	Statistical Training	8 RAU 005
Intra ACP	1,96	Training	8 TPS 155
Intra ACP	0,55	Eurotrace	8 TPS 165
PALOP I	3,5	Training of statisticians	?
PALOP II	2.3	(1994 – 1999) Common statistical methodologies	8 MTR 003
CEMAC	0,58		8 RCE 016
CILSS	10	DIAPER III	7 RPR 061

MED			
NATIONAL			
Palestine	2.3	Cap. Bld.	PLE/4200/99/0220
Liban	0.5	Cap. Bld.	To check with EC Delegation
Maroc	?	Trade	
Israël	?		

MED			
REGIONAL			
MEDSTAT I of which :	Total 20 ¹		ME 8/B7/4100/IB/96/023
a) Environnement	2.45		
b) COM(Data quality + Eurotrace)	0.93+ 1.12 = 2.05		
c) Training	2.72		
d) Migration	1.68		
e) Information System	2		
f) National Accounts	1.55		
g) Bulletin	0.31		
h) Non Observed Economy	0.75		
i) Tourism	2.25		
j) Transport	2.16		
k) Trans ss-reg	0.31		
MEDSTAT II of which :	Total 30 ²		ME 8/RELEX/2001/0125/ B7/4100
Lot 1: Horizontal activities (IS + Training)	10		
Lot 2: Sectoral statistic activities (Comext, NA, Tour,	9.3		

¹ Arithmetic difference between total budget and the sum of lots budgets is due to identification missions, committology and evaluation costs

² Arithmetic difference between total budget and the sum of lots' budgets is due to identification missions, committology and evaluation costs

Trans, Social, Agri, energy migration)			
Purchase MEDSTAT IT equipment	~3 .5 MM		
Environnement II ³	2.17		

LATIN AMERICA			
NATIONAL			
?			
REGIONAL			
Andean Community	8		
Central America	2		
Mercosur	2	Harmonisation	
Mercosur	3	Coordination	
ASIA			
NATIONAL			
Chine	4,7	EU-China Statistical Programme	Contract n° ALA/CHIN/92/2
Pakistan	0,975	Technical assistance to the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Pakistan (not launched yet)	
Bangladesh	0,975	Strengthening Poverty Monitoring System and Institution in Bangladesh	BGD/B-7-300/1B/98/0064
Vietnam	?	Education programme – stat component	Stage of preparation
REGIONAL			
Asean	6	EC-ASEAN statistical capacity building	Budget line 191002 – Political, Economic and cultural co-operation with Asia

TACIS			
TACIS/multicountry	5	(1994/1995) Statistics 1	
Russia	5	Idem	
Armenia	0.6	(1996) Statistics 2	
Azerbaijan	0.6	Idem	
Georgia	0.6	Idem	
Mongolia	0.25	Idem	
Russia	2	Idem	
Ukraine	1.5	Idem	
Uzbekistan	0.5	Idem	
Kazakhstan	0.8	(1997) Statistics 3	
Kyrgyzstan	0.3	Idem	
Moldova	0.5	Idem	
Russia	2	Idem	
Tajikistan	0.25	Idem	
Armenia	0.7	(1998) Statistics 4	
Azerbaijan	0.5	Idem	
Georgia	0.5	Idem	
Mongolia	0.4	Idem	
Russia	1.5	Idem	

³ Only MEDSTAT II on going component which was launched in 2003

Ukraine	1	Idem	
Uzbekistan	0.5	Idem	
Kazakhstan	1.5	(1999)Statistics 5	
Kyrgyzstan	0.5	Idem	
Moldova	0.8	Idem	
Russia	1.0	Idem	
Turkmenistan	0.7	Idem	
Armenia	0.4	(2000)Statistics 6	EuropeAid/114240/C/SER/Multi
Azerbaijan	0.25	Idem	EuropeAid/114240/C/SER/Multi
Mongolia	0.4	Idem	EuropeAid/114240/C/SER/Multi
Kazakhstan	0.7	(2001)Statistics 7	EuropeAid/119819/C/SER/Multi
Kyrgyzstan	0.3	Idem	EuropeAid/119819/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/120425/L/S/KG
Moldova	1	Idem	EuropeAid/119819/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/120585/L/S/M
Armenia	0.3	(2002) Statistics	EuropeAid/120571/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121494/L/S/Multi
Azerbaijan	0.7	Idem	EuropeAid/120571/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121494/L/S/Multi
Georgia	0.5	Idem	EuropeAid/120571/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121494/L/S/Multi
Kazakhstan	0.45	Idem	EuropeAid/120570/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121653/L/S/Multi
Kyrgyzstan	0.45	Idem	EuropeAid/120570/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121653/L/S/Multi
Mongolia	0.2	Idem	97831
Tajikistan	0.3	Idem	EuropeAid/120570/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121653/L/S/Multi
Turkmenistan	0.3	Idem	EuropeAid/120570/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121653/L/S/Multi
Ukraine	1	Idem	EuropeAid/121119/C/S/UA
Uzbekistan	0.45	Idem	EuropeAid/120570/C/SER/Multi EuropeAid/121653/L/S/Multi
Belarus	0.1	(2003)Statistics 9	
Kazakhstan	0.3	Idem	
Kyrgyzstan	0.3	Idem	
Moldova	0.5	Idem	
Russia	2	Idem	
Tajikistan	0.3	Idem	
Turkmenistan	0.3	Idem	
Uzbekistan	0.5	Idem	
Armenia	0.3	(2004)Statistics 10	
Azerbaijan	0.5	Idem	
Georgia	0.5	Idem	
Ukraine	1	Idem	
Uzbekistan	0.5	Idem	
Kyrgyzstan	0.75	(2005)Statistics 11	
Turkmenistan	0.75	Idem	
Tajikistan	0.75	Idem	
Uzbekistan	0.75	Idem	

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2.1 EuropeAid

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2.3 DG Budget

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Annex 4 – Intervention Logic

This annex reconstructs the intervention logic as it emerges from the official documents serving as a basis for the provision of statistical support. It is a prerequisite for the evaluation since it amounts to an understanding of the hierarchy of objectives assigned to the statistical projects and programmes being evaluated and how their effects are expected to lead to the materialisation of these intended objectives.

The intervention logic is represented in diagram 1 that adopts the format¹ recommended for evaluating the Commission's activities.

Notwithstanding extensive searches, no official documents could be identified which define the Commission's strategy for supporting statistics in third countries. This confirms the general view that statistics have an *instrumental* rather than a policy dimension in the context of the Commission's development and economic cooperation with third countries. This intervention logic is therefore an "ex-post reconstructed intervention logic" resulting from a consolidated analysis of documents exposing the Commission's cooperation objectives and the contribution of statistics as a support to reach them.

1. Overall objectives

The upper tier of the diagram defines the overall objectives (labelled OvO). Statistical support to third countries is not a particular policy mandate of the Commission with self standing objectives. It is subordinated to the pursuit of the Commission's development and cooperation objectives that are specified in the *Treaties establishing the European Community and the European Union* (Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice), i.e.:

- Contribute to a sustainable economic, social and environmental development in third countries (Maastricht Treaty, art. 177).
- Contribute to the gradual integration of third countries into the world economy (Maastricht Treaty, art. 177).
- Contribute to reduction and eventual eradication of poverty in third countries (Maastricht Treaty, art. 177).
- Consolidate democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (Maastricht Treaty, art 177, Nice Treaty, art 181a).

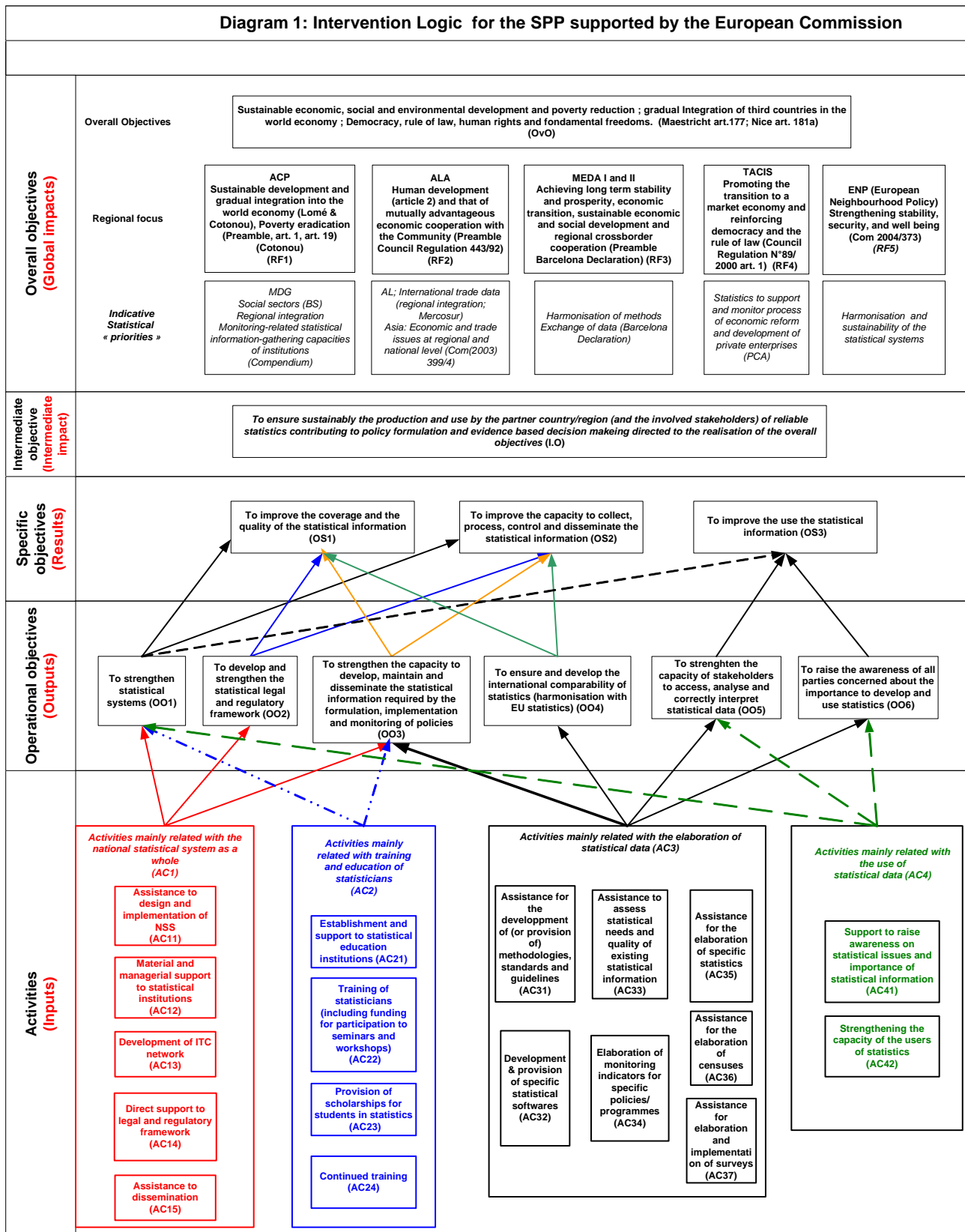
The Council Decisions relative to the Community Statistical Programme² include each a Title³ developing the "statistical implications" for EUROSTAT of the above development and cooperation objectives for third countries.

¹ See European Commission, Directorate-General for the Budget, *Evaluating EU Activities, A practical guide for the Commission services*, July 2004. Annex B: Different elements and concepts of intervention logic.

² *Décision du Conseil du 22 Décembre 1998 relative au programme statistique communautaire 1998-2002 (1999/126/CE)* and *Décision n°2367/2/2/CE du Parlement Européen et du Conseil du 16 Décembre 2002 relative au programme statistique communautaire 2003-2007*.

³ Title XVII: Cooperation with third countries, in the 1998 Decision, Title XX: Development Cooperation (and other external actions), in the 2002 Decision.

Diagram 1: Intervention Logic for the SPP supported by the European Commission



The Commission operates in different regional contexts, under different partnership agreements, all of which may have evolved over the period 1996-2005 covered by this evaluation. This justifies the second line of boxes in the upper tier of diagram 1. It summarises the regional focus in the regions of intervention (ACP, ALA, MEDA and TACIS). A box for the European Neighbourhood Policy⁴ (ENP) that overlaps with parts of the MEDA and TACIS regions is added but it has extremely limited practical implication for this evaluation in view of its recent introduction⁵.

These regional focuses, labelled RF1 to RF5 in the diagram, are derived from the regional cooperation agreements and associated regulations. In each region, these documents suggest more or less explicitly “indicative statistical priorities” indicated in lighter character under each corresponding region. These priorities are also developed in the above mentioned Council Decisions on the Community statistical programme.

- For the **ACP region**, the *Revised Lomé IV Convention* (1995) and the *Cotonou Agreement* (2000) and its *Revised text Agreement* (2005) establish the legal basis for the development and economic cooperation with the ACP countries and state the overall objectives of sustainable development and gradual integration into the world economy. In the Cotonou Agreement, the eradication of poverty is added in its preamble as a main overall objective. These objectives are labelled RF1 in the diagram.

The “indicative statistical priorities” in the ACP region can be found in the *Compendium on cooperation strategies* attached to the Cotonou Agreement. It states that “cooperation shall refer to the international development cooperation targets and shall pay particular attention to putting in place qualitative and quantitative indicators of progress”⁶; as well as, “support and assistance for establishing/reforming or improving structures, institutions and mechanisms relevant for the effectiveness of respect for human rights, rule of law, democratic principles and good governance include (...) support for strengthening monitoring-related statistical information-gathering capacities of institutions and related mechanisms according to internationally comparable standards”⁷. The 2002 Council Decision on the Community Statistical Programme stresses that support to statistics must reflect the redirection of the Commission policy towards the poverty reduction, and maintain its permanent focus on regional integration⁸.

- The European Community objectives towards the **Asian and Latin America** countries are stated in by the *Council Regulation (EC) N°443/92* on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America. The overall objectives in this region are “mutually

⁴ See *European Neighbourhood Policy, COM (2004) 373* for further information. The implementation of this ENP will take place, at first, during the period 2004-2006.

⁵ See section 2.3.

⁶ Cotonou Agreement: art. 19 § 2.

⁷ Compendium, §149, p.50.

⁸ Title XX.

advantageous economic cooperation with the Community”⁹ and “human development”¹⁰ (RF2).

For Latin America, specific statistical priorities are identified in the *Latin America Regional Strategy Document 2002-2006* as “harmonisation of international trade data”.

For Asia, *Com (2003) 399/4 A new partnership with South East Asia*, states that in order “to serve the specific objectives, reliable, harmonised and accurate statistical information is needed for the implementation and evaluation of the main policies, especially in the field of the economic and trade issues (external trade, foreign direct investment). If necessary, strategies and actions to strengthen the statistical systems could be drawn up and carried out, at a regional level (ASEAN) as well as at a national level”.

- The ***Euro-Mediterranean*** Partnership established by the *Barcelona Declaration* in 1995 and by the two *Council Regulations*¹¹ specifies three objectives of cooperation (RF3):
 - Sustainable economic and social development.
 - Building capacity of Mediterranean partners to integrate into the world economy.
 - Regional and sub-regional cooperation (political dialogue).

These three “pillars” shall contribute “to achieving sustainable development leading to long-term stability and prosperity in the region”¹².

The *Barcelona Declaration* also identifies specific priorities of statistics in the MEDA region:

- “The participants agree to promote cooperation on statistics in order to harmonize methods and exchange data”.
- “The cooperation will focus on practical measures to facilitate the establishment of free trade as well as its consequences, including: (...) cooperation among statistics organizations with a view to providing reliable data on a harmonized basis”.

- The cooperation with ***Eastern Europe and Central Asia*** is operated by the TACIS programme and governed by the *Council regulation (EC/Euratom) N° 99/2000*. It is conducted under the principles and with the view of supporting the preparation and the conclusion of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCA). The regulation assigns three major objectives¹³ (RF4) :
 - The progress towards free and open-democratic societies and towards market-oriented economic systems.
 - The development of inter-state economic links and trade flows conducive to economic reform and restructuring.
 - Regional and sub-regional cooperation.

⁹ Council regulation N° 443/92, preamble.

¹⁰ Council regulation N° 443/92, art. 2.

¹¹ *N°1488/1996 (MEDA I) and N°2698/2000 (MEDA II)*.

¹² Preamble *Barcelona Declaration*.

¹³ Preamble *TACIS Regulation*.

The specific objectives of statistical cooperation are enumerated in each national PCA as follow: “Statistical co-operation shall have as its aim the development of an efficient statistical system to provide the reliable statistics needed to support and monitor the process of economic reform and contribute to the development of private enterprise.

The Parties, in particular, shall cooperate in the following fields:

- Adaptation of national statistical system to international methods, standards and classification.
 - Exchange of statistical information.
 - Provision of necessary statistical macro and microeconomic information to implement and manage economic reforms.
 - The Community shall contribute to this end by rendering technical assistance.”
- The ***European Neighbourhood Policy*** has its legal base in *COM (2004) 373* and its overall objectives are to strengthen stability, security and well-being for all concerned (RF5). It is designed to prevent the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and to offer them the chance to participate in various EU activities, through greater political, security, economic and cultural co-operation.

Finally, the Commission has issued horizontal communications or policy guidelines specific to particular sectors where it wants to recommend a strategic approach or policy across all its interventions. This is the case, for instance, in such areas as trade and development, private sector, transport. It is worth noting that there is no similar document for the statistics, a fact that confirms the view that support for statistics is essentially instrumental.

2. Intermediate objective

In the absence of a Commission’s central policy document for the statistical cooperation, the formulation retained in the diagram is the one that imposes by itself, i.e. *to ensure in a sustainable way the production and use by the partner country/region (and the involved stakeholders) of reliable statistics contributing to policy formulation and evidence based decision making directed to the realisation of the global objectives.* This intermediate objective (IO) is the main objective of statistical cooperation, but it is an intermediary objective of the Commission’s development and economic cooperation policies.

3. Specific objectives

The third tier of the diagram represents the specific objectives that are derived from the operational ones (see below). The (sustainable) achievement of the three of them guaranties that of the intermediate objective, whereas the achievement of anyone of them without all the other is necessary but not sufficient.

They are:

- The improvement of the coverage and the quality of the statistical information (OS1).
- The improvement of the capacity for collection, processing, control and dissemination of the statistical information (OS2).
- The improvement in the use of the statistical information (OS3).

4. Operational objectives

These are the results expected from the statistical cooperation activities and they have been derived from major programming documents (the two Council Decisions relating to the Community Statistical Programme, Regulations, large regional programmes like MEDSTAT and RSP). They relate to:

- Strengthening statistical systems (OO1).
- This concerns statistical offices, agencies statutorily empowered with statistical responsibilities: social security, environment agency, planning and forecasting departments of ministries of finance, scientific institutions and includes strengthening the management of human resources.
- The development and strengthening of the statistical legal and regulatory framework (OO2).
- This relates to the legal mandate of the institutions, their rights to ask for information, their obligations (publication, respect of confidentiality of primary data, etc.), but also the status of the statisticians, their place in the overall institutional setting.
- Raising the capacity to develop and maintain the statistical information required by the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies (OO3).
- This objective concerns the production of statistics that are necessary to formulate, implement and monitor the national policies. It also covers the production of statistics needed to monitor internationally agreed targets, such as the MDG.
- Ensuring and developing the international comparability of statistics and/or harmonisation with EU statistics when relevant (OO4).
- This point results from both Council Decisions related to the Community statistical programme, from the regional focus (in particular MEDA, TACIS and ENP), but it is also obvious in the case of regional integration and internationally agreed indicators.
- Raising the capacity of stakeholders to access, analyse and correctly interpret statistical data (OO5).
- This operational objective is also explicit in the 2002 Council Decision related to the Community statistical programme, in various regulations and in several programming documents.
- Raising the awareness of all parties concerned about the importance to develop and use statistics (OO6).
- This objective is also mentioned in several regional regulations and increasingly referred to in relation with the overall objectives democracy and good governance (for instance, in Paris 21).

Their respective expected contributions to the specific objectives are indicated by the arrows on the diagram.

5. Activities

The lower tier of diagram 1 lists the main statistical cooperation activities that are envisaged in the various programming documents and/or have been conducted over the evaluation period. These activities can be implemented either as stand alone projects, but in most cases, projects will cover several activities and can make use of various instruments (training, advocacy, scholarship, workshop, TA, twinning). They are regrouped in four clusters:

- Activities mainly related with the national statistical system as a whole (AC1).
- Activities mainly related with training and education of statisticians (AC2).
- Activities mainly related with the elaboration of statistical data (AC3).
- Activities mainly related with the use of statistical data (AC4).

The detailed activities under each cluster are meant to contribute to one or several operational objectives (OO).

The first cluster involves five typical activities which are mainly supporting operational objectives 1, 2 and 3:

AC11 Design and implementation of national statistical systems (relations between institutions, coordination) → OO1, (OO6), OO3¹⁴.

AC12 Material and managerial support to (statistical) institutions (equipment, organisation, management) → OO1, OO2.

AC13 Development and provision of ITC networks → OO1, OO2.

AC14 Direct support to legal and regulatory framework → OO3.

The second cluster contains activities of training and education mainly targeted to the operational objectives 1 and 3:

AC21 Establishment and support to statistical education/institutions → OO1, OO3.

Note that this educational activity may have broader effects than strengthening the statistical system. It raises the global supply of potential statisticians in the beneficiary country but without guarantee that the persons trained in these institutions become professional statisticians.

AC22 Training of statisticians. Note that this activity also includes funding for participation to seminars and workshops. → OO1, OO3.

AC23 Provision of scholarships for students in statistics → OO1, OO3. The remark formulated for AC21 applies here also.

AC24 Continued training → OO1, OO3.

¹⁴ The link between each activity and the operational objectives cannot be graphically represented on diagram 1 for reasons of clarity. Therefore, it is mentioned here in the text on the diagrams arrows are only drawn between the clusters of activities and the objectives.

The third cluster contains activities that are mainly related to the production of statistics (OO3) but is also contributing to the operational objectives OO5, OO6 and OO7.

- AC31 Assistance for the development of (or provision of) methodologies, standards guidelines → OO1, OO3, OO4.
- AC32 Development and provision of specific statistical software (ERETES, ASYCUDA¹⁵, EUROTRACE, CHAPO; TABLO) → OO1, OO3, OO4.
- AC33 Assistance to assess statistical needs and quality of existing statistical information → OO3, OO5.
- AC34 Elaboration of monitoring indicators for specific policies/programmes → OO3, OO6, (OO1).
- AC35 Assistance to the elaboration of specific statistics: national accounts, foreign trade, sector statistics, labour statistics → OO1, OO3, OO4.
- AC36 Assistance for the elaboration and implementation of censuses → OO3.
- AC37 Assistance for the elaboration and implementation of surveys → OO3.

The fourth cluster regroups activities meant to stimulate the “demand” for statistics. They contribute primarily to the operational objectives 5 and 6 but also to the operational objective 1 insofar as the demand for statistics is an important element for justifying the development of the supply. The existence of a dialogue between producers and users is also essential for allowing the statistical system to improve itself in response to the needs and criticism of the users.

- A41 Support to raise awareness on statistical issues and importance → OO6, (OO5).
- A42 Assistance for strengthening the capacity of the users of statistics → OO5.

¹⁵ ASYCUDA is a software meant to ease customs clearance procedures. Among its outputs are individual harmonised data needed by the statisticians to build up trade statistics by using proper trade statistical software such as EUROTRACE to process these individual data into statistics.

Annex 5 – Evaluation Questions, Judgement Criteria and Indicators

EQ1 To what extent the Commission's SPP in third countries/regions were aimed at reinforcing and supporting the main priorities of the development/cooperation objectives agreed with the partner, and addressed the related statistical needs?

J.1.1 *SPP have been identified and programmed in order to support the priority development objectives agreed with the partner*

I.1.1.1 Do the project/programme preparatory documents explicitly refer to the priority objectives of cooperation?

I.1.1.2 Opinion of the authorities of the partner country on the adequacy of the project with respect to the cooperation objectives.

I.1.1.3 Opinion of the Commission services on the adequacy of the project with respect to the cooperation objectives.

I.1.1.4 Opinion of other donors on the adequacy of the project with respect to the cooperation objectives.

J.1.2 *SPP have been identified and selected on the basis of a preliminary analysis of existing situation and the priority needs in the field of statistics.*

I.1.2.1 Do the project/programme preparatory documents explicitly refer to a needs analysis of the partner in the area of statistics?

I.1.2.2 Do the project/programme terms of reference explicitly refer to a needs analysis of the partner in the area of statistics?

I.1.2.3 Opinion of the authorities of the partner country on the adequacy of the project to respond to the identified needs in the area of statistics.

I.1.2.4 Opinion of the Commission services on the adequacy of the project to respond to the identified needs in the area of statistics.

I.1.2.5 Opinion of other donors on the adequacy of the project to respond to the identified needs in the area of statistics.

EQ2 To what extent did the Commission's SPP strengthen the statistical systems (including the statistical legal and regulatory framework) of the partner country/region?

J.2.1 *SPP have contributed to improve the legal, regulatory and managerial framework governing the production and distribution of statistics*

- I.2.1.1** Did SPP contribute to an evolution/modernisation of the legislation governing the production of statistics in terms of:
- Mandates of the statistical institutions?
 - Guarantees of confidentiality and privacy?
 - Organisation of coordination of the national statistical system (primacy of national statistical office, transfer of informations among information centres)?
- I.2.1.2** Did the administrative status and the work environment of the statistical institutions favour independence and professionalism, in terms of:
- Relative pay scale and status compared to other civil servants?
 - Office environment and facilities?
 - Equipment and logistical means?
- I.2.1.3** Existence in sufficient number and quality of managerial staff and skills in the statistical institutions.
- I.2.1.5** Employees and suppliers are paid in due time and fully.
- I.2.1.6** Turnover of statistical staff (in particular professional and high level).

J.2.2 *The Commission's SPP have led to a better coordination between NSO and other empowered actors*

- I.2.2.1** Did the Commission's project lead to exchange of information between producers of information?
- I.2.2.2** Is the inside functioning of NSOs regulated in accordance with international recommendations and/or best practices? (reference to the UN handbook for official statistics).

J.2.3 *The Commission's SPP have allowed improving the availability and the quality of human resources and equipment (including softwares) of the statistical institutions.*

- I.2.3.1** For the production, analysis and dissemination of the statistical data, does the NSO have equipment X, Y...?

J.2.4 The Commission's SPP have allowed developing a local know-how (namely concerning the work methods and the capacity to elaborate guidelines) in accordance with world standards

- I.2.4.1** Participation of national statisticians to international events.
- I.2.4.2** Insertion of NSO's into international networks of statisticians.
- I.2.4.3** How do the SPP contribute in improving access to documentation and international publications? Through financial support? Through technical assistance?

J.2.5 The Commission's SPP have allowed raising the capacity of statistical producers in the partner country/region to promote their activities and their results.

- I.2.5.1** Does the NSO have a budget to publish regular statistical bulletins or publications? (paper copies or website)
- I.2.5.2** Does the NSO document the methodologies used to compute statistical data?

EQ3 To what extent did the Commission's SPP raise the capacity of the partner country/region, to develop and use the statistical information (compliant with international standards when relevant) required by the identification, implementation and monitoring of specific sector/thematic or national policies?

J.3.1 *The Commission's SPP have allowed raising the capacity of the partner country/region to collect and treat data so as to produce sector/thematic statistics (compliant to the international standards when relevant).*

I.3.1.1 Does the Commission's SPP clearly mention specific actions to correct absences or deficiencies in data collection?

I.3.1.2 Does the SPP contain well-defined instruments likely to improve treatment, quality or timeliness of data and compliance with international norms?

J.3.2 *The Commission's SPP have allowed raising the capacity of the partner country/region to elaborate and use monitoring tools dedicated to specific programmes/policies (implemented by local authorities, the Commission and/or other donors).*

I.3.2.1 Does the Commission's SPP clearly mention well-defined actions aiming at developing specific monitoring tools? (Whether implemented by local authorities, the Commission or other donors.)

I.3.2.2 Are monitoring and result indicators of the PRSP and budget aid programmes produced in due time?

J.3.3 *The Commission's SPP have allowed raising the capacity of the partner country/region to elaborate and implement censuses and to conduct surveys useful directly or indirectly for the product of public statistics.*

I.3.3.1 Does the SPP support the implementation of a national census such that it conforms to accepted criteria? (from organisation to production of final statistics)

I.3.3.2 Was the Commission's project supporting surveys elaborated and implemented within a coherent framework, in particular in taking into account existing surveys, cross cutting issues, adequate frequency and sampling?

I.3.3.3 Have data and documents descriptions of the relative methodologies been made available?

J.3.4 *The Commission's SPP have allowed developing a local know-how (namely concerning the work methods and the capacity to elaborate guidelines) in accordance with world standards.*

I.3.4.1 Does the SPP aim at transferring a know-how to a strategic statistical area?

I.3.4.2 Evidence of significant improvements in the work methods and the capacity to elaborate guidelines.

J.3.5 The Commission's SPP have improved the capacity to collect the statistical information needed for the national/regional strategy of the Partner country/region.

- I.3.5.1 What part of the NSO staff is composed of well-trained members working on data collection? How has this share been evolving since the Commission's support began?
- I.3.5.2 What part of the NSO staff is composed of permanent surveyors for data collection? How has this share been evolving since the Commission's support began?
- I.3.5.3 Are the partner's NSO able to organize training courses for their staff?
- I.3.5.4 Evidence of planning and preparation of data collection activities.

J.3.6 The Commission's SPP have improved the capacity to process the primary data into the required statistical information.

- I.3.6.1 Increase in the volume and the quality of the library of statistical software available within the statistical system.
- I.3.6.2 Easier access to and acquisition of documentation (statistical, methodological, etc.).
- I.3.6.3 The statistical institutions of the partner country/region may organize by themselves training courses for their staff.

J.3.7 The Commission's SPP have allowed raising the capacity of the partner country/region to control and diversify the sources of data and assess their quality, consistency and relevance to produce the required statistical information.

- I.3.7.1 Evidence that the dialogue between the responsible of the statistical system and the producers of administrative data collected for other uses has been improved.
- I.3.7.2 Evidence that the capacity of the producers to select the best sources of data (availability, accessibility, timeliness, cost of producing the required statistical data, reduction of the burden on respondents, etc.) has been improved.

EQ4 To what extent did the Commission's supported SPP improve the collection (coverage/frequency), processing, quality control and dissemination of the statistical information needed for the national/regional strategy of the partner country/region?

J. 4.1 *The Commission's SPP have allowed increasing the volume and quality of the sets of statistical data accessible to all users.*

- I.4.1.1 How does the number and quality of statistical publications evolve?
- I.4.1.2 Modernisation of the equipments necessary to produce statistical publications.
- I.4.1.3 How would you evaluate delays for making statistical data available to all users? What were comparable delays at the beginning of the Commission's support?
- I.4.1.4 Has a web site been created for open access to all public? Did the SPP impact on increasing the volume and the timeliness of the sets of data accessible through this site?
- I.4.1.5 Has the coverage of statistical data accessible to the public been increased?

J.4.2 *Statistical coverage in areas of importance for the identification, formulation and monitoring of national/regional policies has been broadened and deepened as a result of Commission's SPP.*

- I.4.2.1 To which areas has the production of statistical data been extended?
 - Relevance of these areas for the objectives and needs of the partner policy;
 - Relevance of these areas with respect to the information needed by the Commission to monitor its cooperation with the partner.
- I.4.2.2 To which areas has the production of statistical data been strengthened?
 - Relevance of these areas for the objectives and needs of the partner policy;
 - Relevance of these areas with respect to the information needed by the Commission to monitor its cooperation with the partner.
- I.4.2.3 Has the coverage of existing statistical data and indicators increased, with regards to:
 - Geographical coverage?
 - Number of products included?
 - Number of observations measured?

J.4.3 *The quality of statistics in areas of importance for the identification formulation and monitoring of national/regional policies has improved as a result of Commission's SPP.*

- I.4.3.1 For macro-economic statistics covered by the GDDS, what is the evolution of marks in successive GDDS overviews?
- I.4.3.2 For other specific statistical data, what is:
 - The frequency of data collection?
 - The timeliness of statistical information? (i.e. data published in 2005 relate to the situation in 1998 or 2003);
 - The comparativeness of successive statistical data in t

EQ5 To what extent did the Commission's SPP improve the demand for and use of quality statistics to prepare decisions concerning national/regional strategies and/or specific sector/thematic policies and to monitor the effects of their implementation, including the interpretation of statistical data.

J.5.1 *The Commission's SPP have enabled the deciders and other stakeholders understanding and interpreting statistical data.*

- I.5.1.1** Do the SPP include components addressing the issues of interpretation and use of statistical data?
- I.5.1.2** Do the SPP finance seminars, promotion and awareness campaigns to help users interpreting statistical information?
- I.5.1.3** Do the SPP provide for training and information activities conducted in line ministries, implementation agencies etc. to develop the capacity to read and interpret statistical data?

J.5.2 *The Commission's SPP have contributed statistical producers in the partner country/region promoting their activities and their results.*

- I.5.2.1** What resources are available for publications and dissemination of statistical data?
- I.5.2.2** Are statistical bulletins, notes etc. diversified and distributed or subscribed to large level?
- I.5.2.3** Have meetings between users and producers of statistical data been organised? (including meeting with the media)
- I.5.2.4** Have seminars aiming at making users able to understand and correctly use the statistical information been organised?

J.5.3 *The Commission's SPP have developed an active sector dialogue between statistics producers of the partner country/region and data users (including the national public authorities, the firms, the civil society, and the international donors).*

- I.5.3.1** Does the NSO investigate among users of statistics to assess the demand of information and its practical utility?
- I.5.3.2** Evidence of increased utilisation of statistics (number of subscriptions to statistical publications, consultations of statistical websites).
- I.5.3.3** Do national strategic documents, studies, analysis by stakeholders refer to and use national statistical data?
- I.5.3.4** Do strategic and programming documents of donors, international studies, refer to and use national statistical source of information?

EQ6 To what extent do the implementing modalities of SPP contributed to the attainment of their operational objectives?

J.6.1 The Commission's organisation framework and division of responsibilities foster delivery of programmes and projects.B15

I.6.1.1 Is the distribution of responsibilities between the Commission services in Brussels, Luxembourg (ESTAT) and in the partner countries/regions well identified, comprehensive?

Does this distribution exclude overlaps?

I.6.1.2 Does it facilitate participation of the partner in identification and design of SPPs?

I.6.1.3 Does the evolution in this distribution of responsibilities increase the speed of response to partner's demand, to changing situations, to new needs?

J.6.2 The provision of statistical support has contributed to cover statistical needs in the most cost effective way.

I.6.2.1 Are resources provided (financial and other) commensurate with the expected results of interventions?

I.6.2.2 Are financial and other resources provided by the project adequate to reach expected results?

I.6.2.3 Do projects developed as components of non statistical interventions (or supporting/monitoring such interventions) provide additional information? Or do they distort capacity for the production of other necessary statistics?

I.6.2.4 In similar fields, can you identify overlaps or incoherence between statistical projects and non statistical projects with statistical component?

I.6.2.5 Taking into account idiosyncratic factors (such as size and local constraints), is the structure of costs close to similar projects realised elsewhere?

J.6.3 The mix of projects, resources and instruments proposed is designed so as to address the priority needs and to contribute to the proposed objectives.

I.6.3.1 Does the panel of programmed activities address the needs quoted in the diagnostic studies at identification stage?

J.6.4 The support has been consistent over the evaluation process.

I.6.4.1 Have new programmes/projects taken into account the previous ones in terms of achievement and remaining needs?

J.6.5 The support could be adapted to accommodate shocks and change of context.

I.6.5.1 Have projects/programmes taken into account (and been reoriented as the result of) changes in government priorities, administrative reform affecting the NSO, etc?

EQ7 To what extent were SPP designed to improve in a sustainable way the statistical capacities of the partner and achieved this goal?

J.7.1. *SPP have been designed to ensure sustainability of their results.*

I.7.1.1 Do the project documents include provisions allowing the continuation of services after implementation is completed? (especially in terms of transfer of knowledge to statistical institutions; organisation of the phasing-out)

J.7.2 *The Commission's SPP have improved in a sustainable way the technical capacities of the statistical system in the partner region country.*

I.7.2.1 Have civil servants trained in the framework of the project and working on data collection remained in place after completion of the project?

I.7.2.2 Have permanent surveyors trained in the framework of the project and working on data collection remained in place after completion of the project?

I.7.2.3 Have staff members trained in the framework of the project and working on data processing remained in place after completion of the project?

J.7.3 *The level of service achieved with the assistance of the Commission's SPP could be maintained after completion of the interventions.*

I.7.3.1 Could financial resources previously provided by the SPP be replaced by alternatives means? (government budget, other donor, cost sharing, etc.).

I.7.3.2 Are statistics previously produced under the SPP still provided by the statistical authority?

I.7.3.3 For a project that is sufficiently old (so that the indicator makes sense), are outputs still provided on a regular basis?

EQ8 To what extent were SPP supported by the European Commission coordinated with and complementary to partners' authorities/ government strategies and other bilateral and multilateral interventions? And to what extent did the SPP supported by the Commission help the partner country/region to improve its relations with the EU?

J.8.1 *The Commission's SPP take into account and are coordinated with those of the partner government and other donors.*

- I.8.1.1 Is the Commission's diagnostic and identification analysis conducted with the partner and stakeholders? Are their priorities effectively taken into account in the design of the project?
- I.8.1.2 Is the Commission's programme/project implemented in coordination with activities of the partner in similar field?
- I.8.1.3 Does the analysis and implementation of the Commission SPP take into account SPP programmed and implemented by other donors? (particularly EU Member States)

J.8.2 *The Commission seeks to involve the partner and other donor in its SPP or participates to other donors SPPs*

- I.8.2.1 What share of the Commission's SPP budget is financed by the partner?
- I.8.2.2 If relevant, what share of the Commission's SPP budget is financed by other donors?
- I.8.2.3 In the country/region, do the Commission fund SPP activities initiated and implemented by other donors?

J.8.3 *The Commission's SPP programmed and/or implemented at regional level are consistent with those programmed and/or implemented at bilateral level.*

- I.8.3.1 Is the rationale for conducting SPP at national or regional level explained and justified in the projects programmes documents and confirmed by the NSO, partner authorities and users?
- I.8.3.2 Has the SPP programming and implementation level (regional or national) enabled economies of scale and better response to the partner's needs?
- I.8.3.3 In the case of national and regional programmes covering similar field, does one observe duplications or complementary?

J.8.4 *The statistical material supported by the SPP has permitted to accelerate implementation of agreements with the EU or to facilitate relations.*

- I.8.4.1 In areas important for the relations between the EU and the partner (e.g. trade data, assessment of the resources in the case of fisheries agreement, etc..) has information improved?
- I.8.4.2 Has improvement in statistical information resulting from SPP enabled better implementation of bilateral or regional agreements?

EQ9 To what extent were the cross cutting issues (environment, gender and good governance) taken into account into the SPP and did it result in an increased awareness and understanding of these issues by the stakeholders?

J.9.1 *The design of statistical programmes/projects explicitly addresses the cross cutting issues.*

I.9.1.1 Do strategic and programming documents analyse the information needs on cross-cutting issues and address them?

I.9.1.2 Do specific statistical projects aim to tackle cross-cutting issues?

J.9.2 *Information on the cross cutting issues has improved awareness of the importance of cross cutting issues has improved.*

I.9.2.1 Has the project/programme contributed in more statistical information available on gender issues?

I.9.2.2 Has the project/programme contributed in more statistical information available on environmental issues?

I.9.2.3 Has the project/programme contributed in more statistical information available on good governance?

J.10.3 *Awareness of the importance of cross cutting issues has improved.*

I.9.3.1 Are there references in national policy documents, studies and debates on environmental issues?

I.9.3.2 Are there references in national policy documents, studies and debates on gender issues?

I.9.3.3 Are there references in national policy documents, studies and debates on governance issues?

Annex 6 – Overview of Commission-supported SPP in third countries

This annex presents the information gathered on the Commission's statistical co-operation interventions in the four regions considered, i.e. ACP, MEDA, TACIS and ALA.

The annex is structured as follows: section 1 presents the inventory of SPP supported by the European Commission and explains how it was built up as well as the main limitations, weaknesses and issues relating to building of the inventory and collection of documentation. Sections 2 to 5 elaborate on the main characteristics of the Commission's interventions in support of statistics in the ACP, MEDA, TACIS and ALA regions.

1. Elaboration of an inventory of SPP supported by the European Commission

1.1 Issues and limitations of the data collection and documentation process

The terms of reference include in their annex 4 a tentative preliminary list of SPP. This list was meant to provide a first indication of the sample of projects to be analysed in this evaluation together with their distribution by region of intervention and the financial resources involved. This list proved an incomplete and insufficiently informative description of the population of SPP and owing to a number of problems and limitations it appeared that a comprehensive inventory of SPP, allowing clear mapping of the various categories of interventions conducted in the different regions, would not be achievable within the time and resource constraints of this evaluation.

Therefore, it has been agreed with the members of the Reference Group¹ that a pragmatic approach will be adopted consisting of drawing up, with their co-operation, a list of projects that could be regarded as a reasonable "population" of SPP.

With constructive assistance from members of the Reference Group the evaluation team has therefore built up the list presented in annex 7. It is a fair description of the support offered by the Commission in the area of statistics and, in the context of this evaluation, the marginal cost of improving it significantly would far exceed the benefits. It may be worth noting the main difficulties associated with the construction of such an inventory and the collection of documentation on the projects. They can be grouped in three categories: the difficulty of identifying statistical interventions; the difficulty of retrieving consistent and comprehensive information from the different project databases of the Commission; and the need to complete the database information with documentary information, the existence of which is not known *a priori* and is not easily accessible.

¹ Reference Group Meeting of 22/2/06.

1.1.1 Identification of interventions in the areas of statistics

In the different databases of the Commission, the area of statistics is not identified as a sector as such. A complete extraction of a list of statistical projects or programmes supported by the Commission is thus impossible. In fact, it should be noted that:

- Queries based on DAC code 16062 - Statistical Capacity Building - do not provide meaningful results. Fewer than 30 projects or programmes are classified under this code.
- Since the CRIS databases record only the main classification code of each project, statistical components of non-statistical projects can only be identified by entering into the detailed project documents which are not always available.
- Budgetary support projects can be identified but not the details of their institutional support in which statistical components might be included.

1.1.2 Problems with the databases

In order to build a list of statistical projects or programmes supported by the Commission with accurate data, the evaluation team used the Commission databases, which are the three CRIS databases (CRIS Consultation, CRIS Production, CRIS Monitoring) and OLAS (financial database not accessible to the evaluation team without the help of the Commission staff).

The evaluation team has come across several problems in the compilation of the data extracted from the three CRIS databases as they are not giving the same output on identical project lists. In fact, the same project may be entered several times in the databases under various project numbers, titles and with different data, depending on the database in which the project has been encoded.

Another problem is that information on dates and financial data (commitments, disbursements) is frequently missing or unreliable in the CRIS databases. The beginning and end of the operations are impossible to identify as the start and end dates are the programmed dates and the closing date is the accounting end date. There can be years during the lifetime of the intervention without any information on delays to or extensions of the project. Moreover there is an absence of control over project numbers and titles as well as a failure to update descriptions of the projects and the project manager names.

1.1.3 Availability of documentation

For the reasons mentioned above a comprehensive mapping of the statistical interventions supported by the Commission could not be drawn up and the accurate matching of SPP with the activities identified in the intervention logic could not be carried out. Construction of the inventory was therefore completed using documentary information, particularly to provide more accurate financial data, project descriptions and budget breakdowns. The inventory and associated synthesis tables (see annex 7) could in this way be improved.

Nevertheless, several issues relating to collection of documents have limited the action of the evaluation team:

- Documentation can be found in the CRIS monitoring database but less than 40 SPP in the inventory are identified in that database. The documents normally available are financing agreements, monitoring reports and logical frameworks, but some are not incorporated in the database.
- Most of the documents are kept by the project managers at the Commission Services in Brussels or Luxemburg but also in the Delegations. Incidental factors, such as documents still in boxes owing a recent physical move of archives, have slowed down the process of collecting documentation.

The gathering of the documents needed for this evaluation it thus still limited and further searches will be carried out in the Delegations during the field visits.

1.2 Presentation of the inventory of SPP supported by the Commission

The list of SPP identified by the evaluation team in co-operation with the members of the Reference Group is presented in Annex 7. It is an updated and upgraded version of the list presented in annex 4 of the revised inception note sent on 14 April 2006. The main development compared with the previous version is the collection of more accurate data on financial resources committed, contracted and disbursed; and, whenever possible, budget breakdowns for the different types of inputs provided.

This list still exhibits weaknesses explained in the above section, but is considered to include the best data that could be provided to the evaluators and significant improvements beyond that would require more resources than are available for this evaluation. It can be regarded as a fair coverage of the population of SPP across the different regions of intervention of the Commission.

An explanation on the construction of the inventory and of the different types of data is given in the introductory text to Annex 7. An overview of the Commission's statistical support in third countries is described hereunder.

Table 1 – Overview of the Commission's statistical intervention in third countries

Region of intervention	Nr of projects	Commitments (€ in 000's)	% of nr. of projects	% of commitments
ACP	63	228 636	40%	68%
MEDA	46	52 000	29%	16%
TACIS	40	27 200	25%	8%
ALA	9	26 695	6%	8%
Total	158	334 531	100%	100%

A total number of 158 SPP supported by the Commission have been identified in the inventory for a total amount committed of €334 million. In the ACP region, 63 SPP have

been or are implemented for a total amount committed of €228 million (68 % of total commitments). In the MEDA region, €52 million (16% of the total commitments) have been committed for 46 SPP. In the TACIS and ALA region, approximately the same amount has been committed to SPP (8% of the total commitments) but the number of projects is different, 40 and 9 respectively.

Table 2 – Overview of total commitments by region of intervention and by types of inputs

Region of intervention	Commitments in €000 by types of inputs		
	Equipment	Training	TA & Other
ACP	27 437	32 537	168 662
MEDA	10 225	2 787	38 988
TACIS	1 494	1 133	24 573
ALA		2 305	24 390
Total	39 156	38 762	256 613

A crude distribution of commitments between types of input (equipment, training and TA & other) has been carried out in the inventory using, when possible, the documentary information gathered by the evaluation team. A large proportion of commitments is dedicated to ‘technical assistance & other’² compared to training or equipment.

2. Main characteristics of interventions in the ACP region

The inventory of SPP includes 63 projects in the ACP region with a corresponding total commitment of €228 636. In chart 1 these SPP are regrouped in six clusters and presented according to their start date. Each line represents one project and extends over its programming period (end and start dates in annex 7).

The first group *food security and agricultural statistics* includes three projects appearing early in the period. They represent an approach focusing on support to the agricultural sector to promote food security (initially perceived as national - or regional at Sahel level - self-sufficiency) and sustainable development. Over time the priorities moved towards systemic efforts to promote regional integration and integration into the world economy. In this new context agricultural and food security policy have mainly been dealt with in the context of regional integration organisations, for instance the UEMOA. No such project was initiated after 1993.

The major intervention in the group is the DIAPER III, a programme designed to develop early warning statistical systems allowing forecasting of food crops deficit and planning for

² « TA & Other » represents all commitments identified as TA and all commitments that could not be identified in either type of input as no budget breakdowns were found in the available documentation.

the flows of food stocks necessary to cope with them. The programme covers the Sahel countries and is developed in the regional context of the CILSS. It was implemented to ensure continuation of two programmes conducted from 1985. No more Commission support was supposed to be provided after DIAPER II. However, this third programme was agreed so as to permit continuation and take-over by the member states of activities that would otherwise have been abandoned for lack of resources. The two other interventions in this group are an agricultural census and support for the planning and statistics department of a ministry of agriculture.

Chart 1: SPP in the ACP countries

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Food security and agricultural statistics																			
3		Projects										15 397 868		€					
Training																			
8		Projects										27 713 602		€					
Statistics for BS and FAS																			
13		Projects										2 960 921		€					
Support to statistical system																			
15		Projects										15 542 989		€					
Population census																			
16		Projects										143 801 853		€					
Regional integration and trade																			
8		Projects										23 219 107		€					

The
group

second
Training

and support to statistical education includes activities receiving major support at the beginning of the evaluation period and which were extended beyond 2000. However, no new project of this type has been initiated since 2003. The projects of these groups share two major characteristics:

- First, they were all designed and implemented at regional level.
- Second, whereas these projects are ultimately aiming at strengthening the professional quality of the staff of the regional and national statistical institutions, their scope is much broader. They support the educational system (improvement of curricula in secondary schools, provision of scholarships and support to educational and statistical institutions) with a view to stimulating the emergence of qualified or graduate students potentially suitable for work in statistical institutions or in any other area where quantitative training and the ability to use statistics as a basis for decisions is valued.

The most important intervention in this category is COMSTAT, the object of four Commission projects spanning the whole evaluation period with cumulated resources of more than €14 million. Reflecting a view of the crucial importance of basic training, this project and similar ones have been implemented to provide statistical educational and training structures offering extensive coverage of most ACP regions but particularly African ones (Eastern Africa Statistical Training Project, SADC Regional Statistical Training programme etc.). These projects generally receive substantial resources (ranging from €1 to 10.5 million per project) and are conducted in coordination with other bilateral and multilateral donors which contribute financially and conceptually. In the case of the Commission, Eurostat has generally been instrumental in the formulation of the projects and CESD network which were mainly used in mobilising expertise and organising a transfer of statistical know-how.

The third group, *Structural Adjustment Facility* (SAF) and development of statistics in the context of institutional development associated with *Budget Support*, comprises smaller projects conducted at national level. Out of the 13 projects in this category, the first four were initiated before 2000 and are SAF whereas since 2002 the generalisation of budget support in support of poverty reduction strategies has generated an expansion in the number of these projects. The projects aim at improving collection and analysis of data, thereby permitting monitoring of the indicators of progress of poverty reduction strategies and also of the indicators of the results required to trigger release of the various tranches of budget aid provided by the Commission. In this category of projects the approach governing assistance with the production of statistics is radically modified whereas the objective of increasing the “evidence basis” of decisions is maintained. Whereas the large and ambitious training programmes designed in the early 1990s aimed to pave the ground for greater supply and demand of statistics in whole areas of policy making, this category of project is focused on the more precise objectives of improving the production and interpretation of essential data for a specific domain central to formulating, implementing and monitoring particular aspects of policy reduction strategies.

Another significant difference compared with the previous groups arises from the characteristics of the Commission’s budget support. It is offered in the context of a policy dialogue, generally at sector level, concludes with an agreement with the partner on

monitoring and results indicators. The budget support is then transferred in tranches to the beneficiary without allocation to specific categories of expenditure.

Budget support operations are by definition not recorded as specific projects allocated to a particular sector. This means that, in the extreme case where the core policy supported by budget aid would be reform of the institutional functions of the State with emphasis on the statistical and information management institutions, it would not be captured in the inventory as support to statistics. In the most common cases where budget support is intended to support macro-economic or sector reforms, the financing agreement generally incorporates, in a supplement to the budget aid itself, a provision for “institutional capacity building” that can be mobilised at the request of the beneficiary in the form of traditional projects to finance technical assistance, for instance to improve compilation of statistical indicators. The interventions included in the annex 7 inventory fall into this category.

The fourth group, *Support to the National Statistical Systems*, comprises 15 projects ranging from €15,000 to €4.3 million. These projects have been largely directed to strengthening the capacity of the national statistical offices (including provision of software), in particular to enable them to provide the core economic and financial statistics required for the conduct of macro-economic policy and for macro-economic surveillance of the countries participating in regional integration arrangements. One of these projects, the Programme Statistique Minimum Commun (PROSMIC) provides support to AFRISTAT, the regional organisation pursuing these same objectives. This support to national statistical systems has been provided regularly throughout the whole evaluation period.

The fifth group, *Population census*, is the most important in the ACP countries, in terms both of number of projects and of resources allocated. Even without the rather exceptional Nigeria Census Support Initiative that cost €116 million, the group remains the largest. According to UN recommendations census taking should take place every ten years. This goal is particularly difficult to achieve in developing countries given the heavy organisation and technical capability it requires. It is even more difficult in countries that face post-conflict or unstable political situations due to religious or ethnical tensions. The Commission’s support to censuses is generally conducted in coordination with the FUNAP and other donors and aims at several mutually supportive goals: strengthening good governance; transparency and transition towards democratic institutions; and promoting evidence-based policy making and people-oriented service delivery.

The sixth group, *Regional integration and trade*, comprises 8 projects, all of which, except a small one in the Dominican Republic, are channelled through regional institution institutions (UEMOA, EAC, SADC, CEMAC, ECOWAS, COMESA) and address the most important statistical information needs of regional integration: harmonisation of customs data and compilation of trade statistics, and harmonisation and compilation of the statistical data required for implementation of the regional arrangements, in particular the macro-economic surveillance aspects. In the case of West Africa the regional organisation AFRISTAT has been used as executing agency for the programmes PARSTAT and ECOSTAT. These activities appear to have been conducted since 1997 and remain active, the most recent project being launched in 2005.

Summary of ACP overview

- **Programming.** Programming of SPP takes place within the framework of the successive EDF cycles and reflects their respective overall priorities and focus. No “statistical master plan” has been elaborated at the level of the ACP, as was the case in other intervention regions, but SPP have been programmed and implemented in response to statistical needs related to the development priorities of the national and regional beneficiaries. The channels of implementation, regional and national, have been chosen according to the problems being addressed (regional integration organisation for regional integration, CILSS countries for food security). The regional approach has been favoured for aspects of comparability, harmonisation and methodology, whereas national projects have aimed at strengthening the capacity of the national statistical institutions that are ultimately responsible for collection and processing of statistical information. Complementarity between regional and national interventions has been sought but analysis of available evaluations indicates that it has been a major problem to achieve ownership at national level of activities designed at regional level.
- **Objectives.** Over the whole evaluation period the major development objectives have been sustainable development, trade and regional integration and poverty reduction. These three objectives have always been present simultaneously and obviously have many interfaces; the degree of focus on one or several of them has varied across the periods and the countries or regions, depending on the strategic priorities. The *objectives* of the statistical co-operation have been aligned on these development objectives.
- **Evolution of focus.** Support to poverty reduction has evolved from an approach centred on food security and the sustainable development of food crops towards a more systemic approach centred on comprehensive poverty reduction strategies. SPP have involved in parallel and aimed at promoting the production and use of statistical information required for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of these policies. In the first periods of this evaluation relatively large SPP, concentrated on agricultural statistics (production and markets), were implemented whereas support has since been more progressively targeted on production of specific statistical data for preparation, monitoring and assessment of the results of sector policies receiving assistance from budget support.
- **Specific aspects** of Commission support to statistics in ACP countries, which are not found in other regions, include the following:
 - Development of an “educational infrastructure” in statistics. This involved support to statistical schools and statistical training centres via scholarships and other means aimed at stimulating the potential supply of trained statisticians to the statistical institutions as well as to other employment sectors.
 - The existence of an international organisation dedicated to statistics; Afristat that has been both a beneficiary and an executing agency of SPP supported by the Commission.
 - Provision of substantial support for population censuses (linked to poverty reductions).
 - Eurostat and the CESD have been actively involved in preparation and monitoring of the large regional programmes related to training and education as well as other large regional projects. The inclusion of statistical components in national and regional programmes and the definition of the projects’ objectives is the responsibility of DG Development and AidCo. Eurostat has not led or been involved in any overall statistical programme blueprint or template.

3. SPP in the MEDA region

The Commission's intervention portfolio for SPP comprises 46 projects implemented in the MEDA region (see Annex 7), accounting for 16% of total Commission support to SPP over the period 1996-2005. As further developed hereafter, SPP are mainly implemented in MED countries³ under the MEDSTAT I and II programmes that encompass seven vertical and two horizontal sub-programmes. The implementation schedule of MEDSAT under the period covered by the evaluation is presented in Chart 2.

In the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Barcelona conference and following the conclusions of the summits of Essen and Cannes, a series of preparatory actions were launched in 1995 to provide an overview of the statistical systems of the 12 MED countries. Particular attention was devoted to detection of the main problems and constraints within each statistical system; to statistical co-operation projects in progress; and to the main priorities for co-operation with the European Union and the target of creating by 2015 a free trade area under the Barcelona process.

This process revealed heterogeneous statistical systems (in terms of structure, quality of statistics produced, sector and horizontal needs). Some countries already had a developed statistical system but also shortcomings in specific sectors, requiring appropriate technical assistance. In Lebanon and Palestine statistical systems had to be put in place from scratch. For these two countries a minimum set of statistical indicators and appropriate statistical systems were the priority, along with training.

MEDSTAT I aimed at providing appropriate answers to these needs. It was validated in 1996 for the period 1996-1999 and was mainstreamed by regional co-operation: statistical activities and technical assistance are planned on a regional basis, while regional co-operation between MED countries is pursued to tackle issues common to them. MEDSTAT also seeks out relevant, appropriate and reliable macroeconomic data to enable investors and governments to define and adapt their policies.

The year 2000 was marked by the will to reinvigorate the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initialised at the Barcelona Conference in November 1995. The conclusions of the European Council of Lisbon in June and those of the fourth Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Marseilles in November advocated strengthening of Euro-Mediterranean links. In response, MEDSTAT II (2002-2005) aimed at strengthening the outcomes of the first programming cycle, particularly in terms of homogeneous statistical systems between the MED national statistical institutions. It also extended interventions to agricultural and social statistics and to capacity building for analysis and use of data produced.

³ The MED Countries are Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

Activities implemented under MEDSTAT I (€20 million) include seminars and training (€6.3 million), technical assistance (€4.3 million), study tours to EU NSO (€2.4 million) and packages dedicated to questionnaires, interviews or publications (€7 million).

Within MEDSTAT II (€30 million) activities are divided into one “supplies” (€11.1 million) lot and two “services” lots. For the services component, Lot 1 (€9.8 million) concerns horizontal activities and Lot 2 (€9.1 million) vertical activities.

The MEDSTAT programme is implemented under the administrative supervision of AidCo and the technical supervision of Eurostat. The activities of the MEDSTAT sub-programmes (as presented in Chart 2 above) are prepared by specific Task Forces, composed of experts from the EU Member States, the MED countries and Eurostat. These Task Forces are in charge of the design and follow-up of sub-programmes. Implementing agencies (and in particular CESD) create the interface between the Commission and MED countries.

The mid-term evaluation⁴ of MEDSTAT I (14 March 2001) stressed the following:

- User needs: MEDSTAT contributed to assessment of user needs but at the end of the project MED NSOs [National Statistical Organisations] still tended to continue to do what they had done, irrespective of the particular needs expressed. MEDSTAT nevertheless contributed to establishing or, where it existed, to developing dialogue between users and producers of statistics.
- Adaptation to international standards: mixed outcomes were observed in this field, depending on the country or sub-programme; however there was an understanding in all countries of the possible benefits from this.
- Delays were recorded in the start of some sub-programmes; but most programmes were implemented according to schedule.
- Relationships between MED NSOs and the networks of CESD and implementing agencies were good. But selection of experts was sometimes problematic.
- The delegation of implementation from CESD, under contract with the Commission, to MED NSOs might not have been compatible with rules pertaining to budgetary control, provided resources allotted to MEDSTAT came from the Commission and, to a much lesser extent, from the EFTA countries.
- In terms of regional co-operation, the potential of MEDSTAT still remained to be realised at the end of the programme. While co-operation with the EU was well established, sub-regional awareness and co-operation remained exceptional. Several MED countries had expressed their willingness to establish sub-regional groups, but were expecting the Commission to organise it. While the Commission, via MEDSTAT, can help to initiate such co-operation, the responsibility for such initiatives and developments ultimately lies very much in the hands of interested MED countries.

⁴ MEDSTAT Programme - Mid-Term External Evaluation, Visits in situ and synthesis of review, Final report, Brussels, 14 March 2001.

- The way CESD operated, given the type of contractual arrangements with the Commission, provided less long-term visibility of the programme as required by the MED NSOs. While the organisation of MEDSTAT (i.e. CESD and implementing agencies acting as an interface between the Commission and MED countries) was not disputed, the questions of selection of CESD and links to Member States NSOs could be debated. The evaluation concluded that the selection of CESD within a wider number of operators should be considered.

Key recommendations of the evaluation focused on the following:

- Importance of reinforcing bilateral co-operation and of considering the extension of MEDSTAT through bilateral programmes where necessary; sub-regional co-operation should not jeopardise the overall homogeneity of the programme.
- Need to define priorities between MED countries based on their level of participation in and contribution to MEDSTAT: the evaluators questioned the point of committing the scarce resources of MEDSTAT to actions with countries which have not demonstrated that they invest sufficiently in MEDSTAT to make the programme worthwhile to them (i.e. MEDSTAT is about capacity building, not subsidising programmes).
- Inclusion of user needs has been an important element of MEDSTAT and some follow up should be given to the conclusion of the directors' committee meeting in Amman concerning the set-up of user seminars.

Summary of MEDA overview

Programming: The MEDSTAT statistical programmes are defined at the level of the whole region and implemented in all MED countries. DG Relex identifies and specifies the statistical approach in the global interventions, mainly to provide data for the other policies. Eurostat provides technical advice at all levels of the programming and implementation phases. Implementation is supported by the CESD network. Given the agreed regional approach to statistics in the region, bilateral statistical projects are few.

Objectives: MEDSTAT I and its continuation MEDSTAT II operate in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. MEDSTAT is explicitly dedicated to supporting objectives pursued by the Partnership, in terms of providing relevant, appropriate and reliable macroeconomic information to investors and governments to help them define and adapt their policies. Regional co-operation between MED countries is pursued to tackle issues common to them.

Evolution: MEDSTAT I (€20 million) encompasses 35 projects divided into sub-programmes, all completed. These projects are implemented through specific contracts and not through financing agreements. MEDSTAT II aims at strengthening the outcomes of the first programming cycle particularly in terms of homogeneity of statistical systems between the MED national statistical institutions. MEDSTAT II (€30 million) encompasses “supplies” activities (dedicated to equipment and software) and two “services” lots, divided into horizontal activities (coordination, information systems, training) and sector activities focusing on agriculture, tourism, national accounts, environment, external trade, energy and migration. For sector activities, specific terms of reference exist sector by sector, overall management being provided through one single contract.

4. SPP in the TACIS region

The Commission's support for statistics in the TACIS region between 1996 and 2005 consisted of seven annual programmes, titled Statistics 2 to 8. Each such annual programme is designed centrally within the context of a dialogue involving the partner countries, AidCo and Eurostat. Each annual programme is based on a general blueprint that defines the general objectives and the statistical domains to be supported by the Commission SPP. On the basis of the priorities of the national Partnership and Co-operation Agreements (PCAs), the needs expressed by the country, and the progress already achieved in the previous statistical programme, a particular programme *Statistics "t"* will identify the countries and the fields of intervention for year "t".

Each programme is implemented at national level for the benefit of countries through a set of projects emanating from the statistical needs expressed by the partners. In this framework, 40 statistical projects have been identified in the inventory (see annex 7), accounting for 8% of the total amount committed by the Commission for statistical co-operation in third countries.

The main purpose of the Commission's statistical co-operation programmes is, on one hand, to provide support for the changeover to democracy and a market economy by offering the Tacis countries a statistical language in line with world standards and, on the other hand, to develop the local skills and know-how required for the adaptation of the statistical system to the emerging new needs of the society. The majority of this know-how is in the EU Member States' statistical offices. The request for transfer of know-how originates from the partner countries in line with their priority needs.

Activities implemented in the framework of TACIS statistical Programmes are in two main directions: development of statistical infrastructure (classifications, business registers, dissemination and public relations, purchase of equipment, and organisation of language courses) and development of specific statistical fields (business statistics, external trade, population, regional and labour statistics, etc.). A classification of these statistical fields has been provided in the inventory presented by project in annex 7⁵. Chart 3 summarizes this information and indicates for each *Statistics* programme the countries and statistical domains targeted.

In Statistics 2 and 4, the same seven countries (Russian Federation, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Mongolia) benefited from the Commission's statistical programmes and the priority statistical fields are mainly external trade statistics and business statistics. In Statistics 3 and 5 the same five countries (in these cases Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russian Federation) benefited from the Commission's statistical programmes and the two main statistical fields were again external trade statistics and business statistics.

Projects under Statistics 6 and 7 were both implemented in three countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Mongolia under Statistics 6; Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova under

⁵ The classification made in the inventory is based on a document of Eurostat summarizing every activity carried out or that will be carried out in each national project for Statistics 2 to 8.

Statistics 7) and the amounts committed were €1 million and €2 million respectively. The main statistical fields are different from those of the previous programmes with a continuing focus on business statistics and on demography, migration, labour and employment. Projects under Statistics 8, which is currently implemented in 10 countries, have a main focus on the development of agriculture statistics, price statistics, the non-observed economy and social statistics.

Chart 3: Countries and statistical fields covered in Statistics 2 to 8

	Categories of sector statistical data													
	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment etc.	7. Demography, labour	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)	11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/Indexes	13. Business Statistics	14. Other
Statistics 2: Commitments €6 050 000														
Armenia														
Azerbaijan														
Georgia														
Mongolia														
Ukraine														
Uzbekistan														
Statistics 3: Commitments €3 850 000														
Kazakhstan														
Kyrgystan														
Moldova														
Russia														
Tajikistan														
Statistics 4: Commitments €5 100 000														
Armenia														
Azerbaijan														
Georgia														
Mongolia														
Russia														
Ukraine														
Uzbekistan														
Statistics 5: Commitments €4 500 000														
Kazakhstan														
Kyrgystan														
Moldova														
Russia														
Turkmenistan														
Statistics 6: Commitments €1 050 000														
Armenia														
Azerbaijan														
Mongolia														
Statistics 7: Commitments €2 000 000														
Kazakhstan														
Kyrgystan														
Moldova														
Statistics 8: Commitments €4 650 000														
Armenia														
Azerbaijan														
Georgia														
Kazakhstan														
Kyrgystan														
Mongolia														
Tajikistan														
Turkmenistan														
Ukraine														
Uzbekistan														

Tacis statistical co-operation programmes, Statistics 2 to 5 were implemented by CESD which was responsible for the management of the programme and for carrying out the activities. Since Statistics 6 calls for tenders have been the rule and different contractors have managed the programmes. Over the whole period Eurostat was involved to ensure that the advice given on statistics was consistent and of a suitable international standard and quality. It also coordinates and promotes Member States' statistical co-operation activities. AidCo is in charge of ensuring successful implementation of the contracts, in particular the efficiency of their management, and of providing guidelines for their implementation.

Summary of TACIS overview

- **Programming:** Programming of SPP takes place within the framework of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreements between the European Union and the TACIS countries. Through the work of task forces comprising the partner countries, Aidco and Eurostat, statistical co-operation programmes are designed each year. Each annual programme defines the general objectives and identifies the priority fields of statistics to be supported. The partner countries (mainly the National Statistical Institutes), along with technical advisers and under the supervision of Eurostat, identify the needs and design and implement projects.
- **Objectives:** The main purpose of the Commission statistical co-operation programmes is, on the one hand, to provide support for the changeover to democracy and a market economy by offering the Tacis countries a statistical language in line with world standards and, on the other hand, to develop the local skills and know-how required for the adaptation of the statistical systems to the emerging new needs of the societies.
- **Evolution of focus.** Over the whole period of this evaluation, the focus has been on supporting the national statistical systems of the partner countries in the changeover to democracy and to a market economy. The evolution can be seen in the priority fields of statistics supported under Statistics 2 to 8. Business statistics and external statistics were the main focus during Statistics 2 to 5 and this priority was evident in the continuity of projects, their interrelations and coherence. Since Statistics 6 statistical co-operation programmes have focused on a larger range of priority statistical fields such as environment, tourism, agriculture, social statistics, although there was a continued focus on business statistics.
- **Specific aspects** The Tacis statistical co-operation programme consists of annual programmes implemented in several countries with the same global objective and over several statistical fields identified by the partner countries. Terms of reference of the programme are general. Only at component level are the concrete objectives expressed by the partners.

5. SPP in the ALA region

A total amount of €26.7 million has been committed by the Commission to SPP in the ALA region.

Four projects were listed in the inventory for Asia, one of which is a new regional project with the *ASEAN*. It is still in the programming phase. Its objective is to improve integration and harmonisation of regional data in selected statistical fields. Ongoing discussions with the partner point to the following statistical fields being addressed under this project: foreign direct investments, external trade of goods and services, the non-observed economy, education and health. All other projects are bilateral and concern China, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Bangladesh project is a support to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) with the aims of improving the quality of the statistics and the credibility of the BBS with data users, and of providing specific assistance with implementation of survey tools and production of data on the links between poverty, employment and entrepreneurship, particularly in the informal economy. According to existing documentation the project was prematurely closed in view of an inadequate project design and of the BBS's insufficient capacity to fulfil the preliminary steps. The Pakistan project is similar, aiming at strengthening the capacity of the Federal Bureau of Statistics. So far it has been the object of considerable preparatory work that started in 1997-1998 and has drawn on considerable Eurostat resources, but has not been launched owing to a succession of political events. The last project in the region was the EU-China statistics project. Its objective was to introduce internationally-accepted statistical methodologies in the chosen fields (external trade, labour force, informal sector, classification systems) and to adapt these methodologies to the Chinese economic system. The project has now been terminated and the evaluation was positive: *"The overall outcomes are good. They largely met the stated objectives of the project and its 4 components. The impact of the project is significant and useful in the following aspects: methodology, institution/human capital, and concepts."*⁶

Commission support for statistics in Latin America mainly follows a regional approach. Apart from one training project for Latin American statisticians working in official institutions (Central Banks, Ministries) the SPP focused on the regional integration groupings: Andean Community, the Mercosur, and Central America. This support is mainly oriented to elaboration of reliable and harmonised statistical data for trade purposes and to strengthening of their national statistical systems. The only bilateral project relates to Nicaragua; its scope is broader than statistics and its objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Government, including aspects of production and use of statistical information, to improve its implementation of the poverty reduction strategy.

⁶ EU Final Evaluation Report : EU-China Statistics Project ALA/CHN/97/2. Final Report. 5/3/2003.

Summary of ALA overview

- **Programming.** Programming of SPP in the ALA intervention region takes place in the context of the co-operation strategies agreed between the Commission and each regional or bilateral partner; as well as responses to requests of the partner.
- **Objectives.** The objectives of the Commission's co-operation programmes in Asia vary, depending on the country, between development and poverty reduction objectives and economic co-operation objectives more centred on trade and foreign investment. SPP in Asia are aligned with these priorities and their main objectives have in the first instance been strengthening of the statistical institutions, and in the second instance better harmonisation of methodologies and classifications and improvements in trade statistics. In Latin America a similar pattern can be observed but most interventions belong in the second category and have focused on regional integration groupings.
- **Evolution of focus of co-operation.** One cannot really identify an evolution but rather, as already indicated, two main approaches according to the category of country. Across the whole ALA regions SPP is of growing importance in the areas of trade and regional integration.

Annex 7 - Inventory of Commission-supported SPP in third countries

The inventory presented hereunder includes the following information:

- Basic identification data: Project number (Olas or CRIS), Country, Region, start and end dates.
- Financial data (amounts committed, contracted and disbursed) as in the Commission databases.
- Types of inputs. Three main types of inputs have been identified: equipment, training and TA & other. Generally the financing agreements provide a rough breakdown of the commitments that permit to identify resources allocated for equipment and training activities. The residual expenditures are regrouped in the table under the heading TA & other.
- Categories of sector statistical data. Many projects deal with or focus on the elaboration or improvement of one or several categories sector statistical data. 15 significant categories are emerging from an overview of the project documents. It is not possible, except in very exceptional cases, to break down the project resources according to their allocation to specific activities, even less to specific statistics; however, many project documents permit to identify which statistical sector category or categories were covered by a particular project. This is then indicated in annex 7, with an X, in the relevant column(s).
- Finally, annex 7 contains a short description of the project objectives.

The inventory calls for several remarks:

- Some non statistical projects identified by the Reference Group in the ACP and ALA regions have a (often small) statistical component for which the amount committed could not be found in the documents available. These projects have not been taken into account in the final calculation of the Synthesis Tables. However, they have been kept in the inventory for information.
- Budgetary Support frequently includes a provision for institutional support which may be mobilised by the beneficiary to various purposes, among which statistics. These projects cannot be obtained straightforwardly from the CRIS database but have been identified thanks to the help of a member of the Reference Group. When the statistical component of this institutional support could be identified, the projects have been included in the inventory. In the description of the project, the mention “BS” is indicated to identify them. When institutional support has been used and includes a statistical component that is not identified, the projects have been mentioned at the end of the inventory but are not taken into account in the synthesis tables.

- For the MEDA region, two regional programmes have been identified, i.e. MEDSTAT I and MEDSTAT II. Each of these regional programmes have sub-programmes for which service contracts have been signed between the European Commission and contractors. The total amount committed is identified in the Financing Agreement of the regional programmes as a whole and no breakdown of commitments have been allocated to the different sub-programmes. Only contracted and disbursed amount are identified for the sub-programmes. The distribution of financial resources between the different type of inputs (equipment, training and TA & other) for the sub-programmes are therefore based on the amount contracted and not the amount committed as in the other regions of intervention.
- In the second column of the inventory, the mention “S” indicates the projects of the sample selected for documentary analysis.

Annex 7 contains two sets of data:

- The lists of identified SPP in the four regions of intervention (tables 1 to 4) with the information that has just been described.
- Aggregate tables (tables 5 to 8). For each of the four regions data are aggregated with a break down of regional projects (with possible second break down by sub-regions) and bilateral ones. In each case a first table (tables 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a) provides the number of projects, the commitments, contracts and disbursements in thousand €, the average project size the distribution in percentage (number of projects and commitments), and the degree of execution of contracts and disbursements. A second table (tables 5b, 6b, 7b, 8b) provides the breakdown of the resources provided into equipment, training and TA & other, as well as an overview of the number of projects addressing the different categories of sector statistics.

List of Statistical Programmes and Projects																																							
Table 1: List of SPP in the ACP region																																							
Sort No.	Sample	Project number (Olas)	Country	Region	Title	Dates		Committed (€)	Contracted (€)	Observed (€)	Type of inputs			Categories of sector statistical data										Brief project description (main objectives)															
						Start (contractor signature date)	End				Equipment	Training	TA and other	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment	7. Demography, migrations, labour and employment	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)		11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/indices	13. Business Statistics	14. Economic & Fin. Stats.	15. Other										
National programmes/projects																																							
53		7 ACP DO 54	Dom Rep		TA for interinstitutional coordination of external trade statistics and preparation of Stabex programme	1998	1999	108.363	108.363	108.363																													
54		8 ACP JM 26	Jamaica		SERP III - Statistical component	2003	2007	150.000																														BS Amount of institutional support: 3 000 000 Assistance on performance indicators: 150 000	
55		9 ACP HA 1	Haiti		APPUI AU 4EME RECENSEMENT GENERAL DE LA POPULATION ET DE L'HABITAT (RGPH)	2003	2009	1.241.000	1.241.000	1.060.960																												COLLECTION ET ANALYSES DE DONNEES DEMOGRAPHIQUES	
5. Pacific Region																																							
Regional programmes/projects																																							
National programmes/projects																																							
56		7 ACP SOL 38	Salomon. ile		POPULATION CENSUS 1997	1997	2001	2.262.000	2.148.684	2.131.530																												COLLECTION ET ANALYSES DE DONNEES DEMOGRAPHIQUES	
6. All ACP and other regional projects																																							
3		7 ACP RPR 590			APPUI A AFRISTAT	1996	2002	720.514	720.514	720.514																												RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES D'ORGANISATION, DE PROGRAMMATION ET DE GESTION DES INS. HARMONISATION DES NOMENCLATURES; APPUI A L'ADAPTATION ET A LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU NOUVEAU SYSTEME DE COMPTABILITE NATIONALE	
57	S	7 ACP RPR 308		COMSTAT	APPUI A LA FORMATION STATISTIQUE	1993	2001	10.583.000	9.360.163	9.355.817			10.583.000																								DEVELOPPEMENT DE PROGRAMMES PEDAGOGIQUES, DE MATERIAL DIDACTIQUE ET DE PROGRAMMES D'INFORMATIQUE. BOURSES D'ETUDES POUR LES ECOLES AFRICAINES DE STATISTIQUE (FORMATION DE BASE) ET POUR DES CENTRE EN EUROPE (RECYCLAGE). REALISATION DE CONCOURS		
58	S	8 ACP TPS 91		COMSTAT ext	HIGH LEVEL STATISTICAL TRAINING	2000	2002	1.960.000	1.884.322	1.527.562	22.000	1.938.000																									Developpement des formations supérieures de base et des formations continue des statisticiens par l'octroi de bourses d'études de longue durée et de courte durée		
59	S	8 ACP TPS 155		COMSTAT ext2	TRAVAUX PREPARATOIRES INITIATIVES REGIONALES RENFORMES INSTI TUTIONNEL (EDUCATION & FORMATION PROFESSIONNELS HAUT NIVEAU)	2003	2008	1.950.000	1.798.689	929.266		1.695.000	255.000																								Developpement des formations supérieures de base et des formations continue des statisticiens par l'octroi de bourses d'études de longue durée et de courte durée		
60	S	8 ACP TPS 39		Tous Pays	HI-LEVEL STATISTICAL TRAINING: COMSTAT BRIDGING OP.	1999	2004	1.080.000	935.554	875.603	51.000	979.000	50.000																								PHASE DE TRANSITION ENTRE LE PROGRAMME COMSTAT ET UNE NOUVELLE PROPOSITION DE FINANCEMENT (A L'ETUDE) QUI D'EVRAIT PERMETTRE LA MISE EN PLACE D'UN "APRES" COMSTAT		
61		8 ACP TPS 165		Intra ACP	NOUVELLE VERSION DU LOGICIEL EUROTRACE (TEST DE LA VERSION P RE INDUSTRIELLE, PRESENTATION ET DIFFUSION DANS PAYS ACP)	2003	2005	550.000	259.015	81.262			550.000																										
62		7 ACP RPR 84		Régional et intra-ACP	FORMATION DE CADRES MOYENS A LA STATISTIQUE IN PALOP	1993	2003	2.464.666	2.464.666	2.464.666		2.464.666	0																									BUILDING UP MODULAR TRAINING SYSTEM - TRAINING FOR TRAINEES -WORKSHOPS - NEWSLETTER	
63		8 ACP MTR 3 + 8 ACP TPS 122		Multi regional (PALOP)	SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL SYSTEMS IN PALOP COUNTRIES	2002	2007	2.300.000	2.264.748	1.464.640	550.000	180.000	1.570.000																								Strengthening the NSIs institutional capacity through capacity building of the technical staff and the establishment of common methodologies		

		List of Statistical Programmes and Projects															Brief project description (main objectives)														
		Table 2: List of SPP in the MEDA region																													
Sort. No.	Sample	Project number (CRIS Nr)	Country	Région géo/pol	Title	Dates		Committed (€)	Contracted (€)	Disbursed (€)	Type of inputs			Categories of sector statistical data																	
						Start (contractor signature date)	End				Equipment	Training	TA and other	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment	7. Demography, independent sources and employment	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)	11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/indices	13. Business Statistics	14. Economic & Fin. Stats	15. Other			
2		11 Regional Programmes			MED-TOUR - Implementation Med-Tour programme	1/07/1997	31/03/2003		1.769.040	1.506.828		90.000	1.679.040						X											Strengthening the convergence in data collected and methods used in the field of tourism; improving the exchange of comparable statistical data	
3		MED/1996/057-440			MED-TRANS - Mise en oeuvre du prog Med-Trans sub programme	8/07/1997	8/07/2000		1.154.728	1.154.728			1.154.728	X																Analysis of the existing transport statistics system and of national/international users' needs	
4		MED/1996/057-464			MED-TRANS - Projet de Statistique du Transport Maritime	11/09/2001	30/04/2003		286.012	286.012			286.012	X																To improve and consolidate the transport information systems in the MED countries (national level) focusing in particular on harmonisation	
5		MED/1996/057-465			MED-TRANS - Bridge sub-programme	22/02/2001	22/03/2003		660.000	568.466			660.000	X																	
6		MED/1996/057-442			MED-MIGRATION - Euro-Med Statistical Cooperation on Migration - Phase I	8/10/1997	8/04/2003		500.000	371.301		35.000	465.000								X									Establishment of a regular collection of harmonised information on migrations in the MED countries	
7		MED/1996/057-462			MED-MIGRATION - Euro-Med Statistical Cooperation on Migration - Phase II	2/05/2000	8/04/2003		872.591	747.555			872.591								X									Establishment of a regular collection of harmonised information on migrations in the MED countries	
8	S	MED/1996/057-447			MED-COMEXT - Mise en oeuvre du programme COMEXT	17/11/1999	30/03/2003		930.000	799.333		13.000	917.000								X									Initiate the harmonisation work with the 12 Med Partners; exchange relevant data with them; develop and start feeding a COMEXT-like "regional database from the Med contributions; make reconciliation exercises with the most advanced countries	
9	S	MED/1996/057-448			MED-COMEXT - Mise en place du système informatique-COMEXT	6/03/1998	30/03/2003		1.100.000	1.032.540		338.000	127.750	624.250							X										To provide the Institutions responsible for production and diffusion of statistical data, with an information tool for the automated management of statistical data on external trade
10	S	MED/1996/057-454			MED-ENV - Environnement	23/04/1999	31/03/2003		2.391.258	2.320.649		305.667	442.840	1.642.751						X											to improve the ability of the 12 Mediterranean statistical services to collect, produce and publish comprehensive, reliable, timely and relevant environmental statistics
11		MED/1996/057-457			MED-TRAINING	23/11/1999	31/12/2002		1.418.046	1.046.708			1.307.150	110.896																	to provide general training in statistics of the staff of the partner Organisations and to support the respective competences and existing structures in the 12 MED Partner countries
12		MED/1996/057-488			MED-NA (National Accounts)	7/12/1999	31/03/2003		1.500.000	1.214.762			1.500.000								X									Enhance the harmonization of the National Accounts in the Med Countries with the EU standards; Produce and exchange a number of comparable macro-economic aggregates between the Med Partners and the EU and the MED Countries themselves; Disseminate National Accounts on an annual basis to the users and exchange them with the EU.	
13		MED/1996/057-460			MED-NOE (Non Observed Economy)	12/01/2000	12/04/2003		1.114.500	694.083		118.320	996.180									X									Contribute to the improvement of the exhaustiveness and regional/international comparability of GDP, according to international standards; Address aspects involving the improvement of the labour market information system as regards the non-regular labour force.
14		MED/1996/057-461			MED-IS (Système d'Information)	6/04/2000	31/03/2003		2.000.000	128.214			2.000.000																		Consolidation of Statistical Information Systems of the Mediterranean Partners; Statistical data exchanged between MEDSTAT partners and Eurostat, for all MEDSTAT components
15		MED/1996/057-435			Coopération statistique avec les Partenaires MED	24/10/1996	24/10/1997		439.803	439.803			439.803																		

List of Statistical Programmes and Projects																											
Table 4: List of SPP in the ALA region																											
Short No.	Sample	Project number (CRIS Nr or OLAS)	Country	Région géo/pol	Title	Dates		Committed (€)	Contracted (€)	Disbursed (€)	Type of inputs			Categories of sector statistical data										Brief project description (main objectives)			
						Start (contractor signature date)	End				Equipment	Training	TA and other	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment	7. Demography, migrations, labour and employment	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)		11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/indices	13. Business Statistics
1. Asia																											
Regional programmes/projects																											
1		Budget line 191002 – Political, Economic and cultural co-operation with Asia		Asean	EC-ASEAN statistical capacity building	2005	2006	6.000.000			6.000.000			X				X	X							X	To improve integration and harmonisation of regional data in selected statistical fields.
National programmes/projects																											
2		BGD/B-7-300/1B/98/0064	Bangladesh		Strengthening Poverty Monitoring System and Institution in Bangladesh	1999	2003	975.000		262.000	975.000								X	X	X						To develop improved poverty alleviation policies in Bangladesh
3	S	PAK/B7-300/97/0161	Pakistan		Technical assistance to the Federal Bureau of Statistics	2001	2003	975.000			975.000			X								X					
4	S	ALA/CHIN/92/2	China		EU-China Statistical Programme	1998	2002	4.710.000		3.451.000	4.710.000				X			X	X								To develop methodologies for reconciliation of Chinese trade data with EU. To provide technical assistance for the acquisition of internationally comparable data on the structure of the labour force. To provide technical assistance for the estimation of the size of the IS contribution to the GDP, and for its integration into the System of National Accounts. To adapt for use in China, certain classification systems compatible with international standards.
2. Latin America																											
Regional programmes/projects																											
5		ALA/1997/ 002-394		Lat. Am. Reg.	projet de formation continue de statisticiens AL	1997	2004	900.000		848.520	900.000																Consolider la formation des statisticiens d'Amérique latine travaillant dans les institutions officielles (INS, Banques Centrales, Ministères d'Economie). Accroître la familiarité des statisticiens latino-américains avec les méthodologies européennes. Moderniser et renforcer les système statistique nationaux d'Amérique latine.
6	S			Central America	PAIRCA programme	2003		2.000.000			2.000.000			X													Regional statistical harmonisation and trade statistics
7	S	ALA/2002/ 005-852 (ASR/AIDCO/2002/0390)		Andean Comm.	EU-Andean Community Cooperation on statistics	2005	2009	5.000.000		1.074.430	450.000	4.550.000	X	X	X		X	X				X	X				Contribution to regional integration and strengthening of regional institutions. Support to the creation of the Andean Common Market and harmonisation of macroeconomic policies. Harmonisation of statistical methodologies

Synthesis tables										
Table 5a :Distribution of SPP in the ACP region										
	Nr of projects	Committed (€ in 000's)	Contracted (€ in 000's)	Disbursed (€in 000's)	Average project size (commitment)	Distribution in %		Rates of contracts and disbursements		
						Nr of projects	Commit-ments	Contracted in % of committed	Disbursed in % of contracted	
Regional projects										
West Africa Region	4	16.723	13.473	13.071	4.181	6,5%	7,3%	80,6%	97,0%	
Central Africa Region	1	584	584	584	584	1,6%	0,3%	100,0%	100,0%	
Eastern and Southern Africa Region	6	25.477	20.813	17.167	4.246	9,7%	11,2%	81,7%	82,5%	
Caribbean Region										
Pacific Region										
Other regional and all ACP	7	20.888	18.967	16.699	2.984	11,3%	9,2%	90,8%	88,0%	
Total	18	63.672	53.837	47.520	3.537	29,0%	27,9%	84,6%	88,3%	
Bilateral projects										
West Africa, bilateral	23	144.050	125.216	115.160	6.263	37,1%	63,2%	86,9%	92,0%	
Central Africa, bilateral	2	1.555	1.500	1.449	778	3,2%	0,7%	96,5%	96,6%	
Eastern and Southern Africa, bilateral	15	14.877	11.593	10.337	992	24,2%	6,5%	77,9%	89,2%	
Caribbean, bilateral	3	1.499	1.349	1.169	500	4,8%	0,7%	90,0%	86,7%	
Pacific, bilateral	1	2.262	2.149	2.132	2.262	1,6%	1,0%	95,0%	99,2%	
Total	44	164.244	141.807	130.246	3.733	71,0%	72,1%	86,3%	91,8%	
Total ACP	62	227.916	195.643	177.767	3.676	100,0%	100,0%	85,8%	90,9%	

Table 5b: Main identifiable characteristics of projects in the ACP Region

	Commitments (€in 000's) by type of input			Number of projects directed to specific categories of sector statistical data (NB.a single project may deal with more than one category)														
	Equipment	Training	TA and other	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment	7. Demography, migrations, labour and employment	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)	11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/indices	13. Business Statistics	14. Economic & fin. Stats.	15. Other
Regional projects																		
West Africa Region	470	1.887	14.366	1			2			1	1	1			1		1	2
Central Africa Region	15		569														1	1
Eastern and Southern Africa Region	2.934	5.873	16.671				1							1				1
Caribbean Region																		
Pacific Region																		
Other regional and all ACP	623	17.840	2.425				1				1							1
Total	4.041	25.600	34.031	1			4			1	2	1		2		2		5
Bilateral projects																		
West Africa, bilateral	22.424	6.072	115.554	2						11			4	3				1
Central Africa, bilateral			1.555							1								1
Eastern and Southern Africa, bilateral	973	865	13.039		1		1			6	1		1	1	2			8
Caribbean, bilateral			1.499				1			1								1
Pacific, bilateral			2.262							1								
Total	23.396	6.937	133.910	2	1		2			20	1		5	4	2			11
Total ACP	27.437	32.537	167.941	3	1		6			21	3	1	5	4	4		2	16

Synthesis tables																		
Table 6a: Distribution of SPP in the MEDA region																		
	Nr of projects	Committed (€ in 000's)	Contracted (€ in 000's)	Disbursed (€ in 000's)	Average project size (commitment)	Distribution in %		Rates of contracts and disbursements										
						Nr of projects	Commitments	Contracted in % of committed	Disbursed in % of contracted									
Regional projects																		
Medstat I	36	20.000	18.651	14.785	556	78,3%	38,5%	73,9%	79,3%									
Medstat II	9	30.000	29.301		3.333	19,6%	57,7%											
Total	45	50.000	47.952	14.785	1.111	97,8%	96,2%	29,6%	30,8%									
Bilateral projects																		
Bilateral projects	1	2.000	1.909	981	2.000	2,2%	3,8%	49,0%	51,4%									
Total	1	2.000	1.909	981	2.000	2,2%	3,8%	49,0%	51,4%									
Total MEDA	46	52.000	49.861	15.766	1.130	100,0%	100,0%	30,3%	31,6%									
Table 6b: Main identifiable characteristics of projects in the MEDA Region																		
	Commitments (€ in 000's) by type of input			Number of projects directed to specific categories of sector statistical data (NB.a single project may deal with more than one category)														
	Equipment	Training	TA and other	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment	7. Demography, migrations, labour and employment	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)	11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/indices	13. Business Statistics	14. Economic & fin. Stats.	15. Other
Regional projects																		
Medstat I	3.000	2.466	14.534	1	3		2	2	1	2	1	2						
Medstat II	7.075		22.925	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1					
Total	10.075	2.466	37.459	2	4	1	3	3	2	3	2	2	1					
Bilateral projects																		
Bilateral projects	150	321	1.529	1			1	1							1	1		
Total	150	321	1.529	1			1	1						1	1			
Total MEDA	10.225	2.787	38.988	3	4	1	4	4	2	3	2	2	1		1	1		

Synthesis tables																		
Table 7a: Distribution of SPP in the TACIS region																		
	Nr of projects	Committed (€ in 000's)	Contracted (€ in 000's)	Disbursed (€ in 000's)	Average project size (commitment)	Distribution in %		Rates of contracts and disbursements										
						Nr of projects	Commitments	Contracted in % of committed	Disbursed in % of committed									
Regional projects																		
Regional statistical programmes locally implemented	40	27.200		18.335	680	100,0%	100,0%		67,4%									
Total	40	27.200		18.335	680	100,0%	100,0%		67,4%									
Bilateral projects																		
Bilateral projects																		
Total																		
Total Tacis	40	27.200		18.335	680	100,0%	100,0%		67,4%									
Table 7b: Main identifiable characteristics of projects in the TACIS Region																		
	Commitments (€ in 000's) by type of input			Number of projects directed to specific categories of sector statistical data (NB.a single project may deal with more than one category)														
	Equipment	Training	TA and other	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment	7. Demography, migrations, labour and employment	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)	11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/Indexes	13. Business Statistics	14. Economic & fin. Stats.	15. Other
Regional projects																		
Regional statistical programmes locally implemented	1.494	1.133	24.573	17	7	11	24	5	4	18	9	17	6	3	13	28		30
Total	1.494	1.133	24.573	17	7	11	24	5	4	18	9	17	6	3	13	28		30
Bilateral projects																		
Bilateral projects																		
Total																		
Total Tacis	1.494	1.133	24.573	17	7	11	24	5	4	18	9	17	6	3	13	28		30

Synthesis tables																		
Table 8a: Distribution of SPP in the ALA region																		
	Nr of projects	Committed (€ in 000's)	Contracted (€ in 000's)	Disbursed (€ in 000's)	Average project size (commitment)	Distribution in %		Rates of contracts and disbursements										
						Nr of projects	Commitments	Contracted in % of committed	Disbursed in % of committed									
Regional projects																		
Asia Regional	1	6.000			6.000	11,1%	22,5%									100,0%		
Latin America Regional	5	14.035		1.923	2.807	55,6%	52,6%									20,0%		
Total ALA regional	6	20.035		1.923	3.339	66,7%	75,1%									16,7%		
Bilateral projects																		
Asia Bilateral	3	6.660		3.713	2.220	33,3%	24,9%									33,3%		
Latin America Bilateral																		
Total ALA Bilateral	3	6.660		3.713	2.220	33,3%	24,9%									33,3%		
Total ALA	9	26.695		5.636	2.966	100,0%	100,0%									11,1%		
Table 8b: Main identifiable characteristics of projects in the ALA Region																		
	Commitments (€ in 000's) by type of input			Number of projects directed to specific categories of sector statistical data (NB.a single project may deal with more than one category)														
	Equipment	Training	TA and other	1. Agriculture	2. Transport	3. Energy	4. External trade	5. Tourism	6. Environment	7. Demography, migrations, labour and employment	8. National Accounts	9. Non observed economy	10. Social statistics (education, health, etc.)	11. Poverty profile	12. Price statistics/Indexes	13. Business Statistics	14. Economic & fin. Stats.	15. Other
Regional projects																		
Asia Regional			6.000				1					1	1					1
Latin America Regional		2.305	11.730	1	2		4			1	3	1	2			2	2	2
Total ALA regional		2.305	17.730	1	2		5			1	3	2	3			2	2	3
Bilateral projects																		
Asia Bilateral			6.660				2			2	1	2		1	1			
Latin America Bilateral																		
Total ALA Bilateral			6.660				2			2	1	2		1	1			
Total ALA		2.305	24.390	1	2		7			3	4	4	3	1	1	2	2	3

Annex 8 - Main focus of the statistical support provided by multilateral donors

1. UN bodies

Under the guidance of the UN Statistical Commission (a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council – the ECOSOC - the 24 members of which are elected by the ECOSOC), the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) monitors the development of the global statistical system and promotes a set of principles governing international statistical activities (among them, the UN Resolution on Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics, adopted in 1994) and classifications (economic activities like ISIS, products, ...), methods (like the System of National Accounts, SNA 1993), and other tools. EUROSTAT has always participated as an observer in the meetings of the UN Statistical Commission.

A Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), the inter-agency coordination mechanism between the Chief Statisticians and Coordinators of statistical activities of international agencies, organises coordination with the statistical units of the whole UN family.

For instance, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has a mission of data collection, production and dissemination of all agricultural and food related statistics; while the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) also has a mission relating to data on education and culture.

At the regional UN level, regional conferences or committees of statisticians are regularly convened to improve statistical coordination at the level of the region. Some of these conferences have taken initiatives to strengthen technical cooperation, for instance the Conference of European Statisticians in Geneva has supported technical cooperation with the European transition countries, the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis-Ababa has created the FASDEV (Forum for African Statistical Development). The European Commission (EUROSTAT) participates in these initiatives.

UNSD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are leading the monitoring of the MDG indicators. It involves support for strengthening capacities in data collection and its link to policy analysis, support for social indicators related to the MDGs, and establishment of databases and user-friendly software developments with mapping facilities.

2. The World Bank

The World Bank has a long tradition of strengthening statistical capacities in developing countries, highlighting the use of new statistical tools and technologies and promoting better use of existing resources. On the one hand, the World Bank created in 2001 a Trust

Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) to complement PARIS21 (see *infra*) activities. It is a multi-donor trust fund to provide grants to developing countries for statistical capacity building activities. Since their inception both PARIS21 and the TFSCB have been seen as part of a common effort to build a culture of evidence-based policy making. PARIS21 promotes dialogue and advocacy, and TFSCB provides the financial and technical resources to kick-start a sustainable capacity building process. Through small and quick-acting grants of up to \$400,000 over two or three years, countries have been able to address key capacity constraints in their statistical systems and to develop a strategic approach to building an efficient and effective national statistical system. The first Trust Fund (TFSCB I) was closed in August, 2004. A second Trust Fund had started by the end of 2004. The European Commission is a member of the TFSCB Consultative Group.

On the other hand, the Bank is playing an important role, together with the UN bodies, in the field of the MDG indicators, which means a strengthening of analytical capacity in poverty analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and in data collection on poverty. The World Bank Institute has developed the *Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative* (PADI). It is a four-step strategy that incorporates poverty measurement and diagnostics, monitoring of poverty and social indicators, evaluation of poverty and social impact, and a strategy for better data collection and dissemination.

In 2004 the World Bank launched the STATCAP, an important lending programme designed to make investments in statistical capacity easier and more effective. STATCAP is based on the development of a comprehensive and integrated national action plan for statistical capacity building, a Statistical Master Plan (SMP) which is often linked to a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and is prepared through consultation with data providers and data users. Preparatory work for the SMP and SNDS may be financed from a grant from the TFCB.

3. The African Development Bank

The African Development Bank (ADB) has also contributed, through its Statistics Department, to the effective development in its Regional Member Countries (RMC) of the statistical capacity and systems for the provision of timely and reliable data for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. It aims to stand as an important source of relevant, reliable and timely data on African development processes, starting with the data generated from its current management of the Africa component of the International Comparison Program (ICP-Africa).

Over the past several years, the ADB has intensified its statistical capacity building activities. These efforts were further bolstered in September 2004, following the approval of a grant of about US\$ 22 million by its Board of Directors to support the World Bank's program for strengthening statistical capacity in African countries in the context of the International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa). The program aims to strengthen statistical capacity of African countries to meet the urgent demand for reliable and timely data to support the monitoring of progress on the MDGs, Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs), the NEPAD initiative and the Results-Agenda for development effectiveness.

4. The International Monetary Fund

The IMF's GDDS (General Data Dissemination System) aims to encourage countries to evaluate their macroeconomic, financial and social sector data using an internationally agreed framework. Today an impressive number of countries have subscribed to and completed the GDDS exercise and many are using the results as part of their strategic planning for statistics or simply to identify improvements needed to bring their systems into line with recommended practice.

Some transition countries have also subscribed to the SDDS (Special Data Dissemination Standards), which is more challenging and sophisticated and makes it necessary to have a strong commitment from the subscribers.

5. International initiatives (and commitments)

During the period 1996–2005 the European Commission has participated in several international initiatives aimed at contributing to statistical development in developing and transition countries:

5.1 PARIS21 (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century)

In November 1999, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD, EUROSTAT, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, and the World Bank organized an international meeting on statistics for development. The result of this meeting was the establishment of the consortium PARIS21, hosted by the DAC. The PARIS21 partners agreed that a new approach was needed to building and strengthening the statistical systems – national and international – necessary for setting development policies and monitoring outcomes. The general objective of PARIS21 “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”¹. The fundamental principle had to be partnership between developed and developing countries and between providers and users of statistical data. But the process had to be driven by developing countries themselves if it was to be sustained. The envisaged results were increased cooperation and reduced donor dependency. PARIS21 has been most successful in promoting dialogue between data users and providers and strengthening coordination between donors around a country-led development process. The European Commission (DG Dev/EUROSTAT) is member of the PARIS21 Steering Committee.

Through PARIS21, the OECD DAC has also hosted METAGORA which is a pilot project focusing on methods, tools and frameworks for measuring democracy, human rights and governance. The European Commission is the main contributor to the funding of this project.

¹ Source: PARIS21 logical framework.

5.2 Statistical indicators for measuring MDG

The Millennium Declaration, signed in 2000 by 189 heads of state and government, provides a clear statement of development goals. It identifies a specific set of targets and places responsibility on all countries to monitor and report on progress. It also presents a major opportunity and a challenge to the international statistical community: better statistics were identified as a priority of the results agenda at the first Round Table on Better Measurement, Monitoring, and Managing for Results, held in Washington in 2002, and statistics remain an important part of the results agenda. Convened by the UNSD and the UNDP, meetings have brought together the key agencies involved with the production of data to support the MDG monitoring. This group has gone on from merely coordinating the data gathering process for the Secretary General's report on the Millennium Declaration to establishing a broad network of agencies and individuals committed to working together on the numerous measurement issues facing the comprehensive global MDG monitoring reports planned for 2010 and 2015. EUROSTAT is participating in this common effort.

5.3 Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

A second Round Table on Better Measurement, Monitoring, and Managing for Results was held in Marrakech in February 2004. The European Commission participated in the discussions on an action plan. This action plan has six components:

- Mainstream Strategic Planning of Statistical Systems.
- Prepare for the 2010 Census Round.
- Increase Financing for Statistical Capacity Building.
- Set up an International Household Survey Network.
- Undertake Urgent Improvements Needed for MDG Monitoring by 2005.
- Increase Accountability of the International Statistical System.

Annex 9 - Questionnaire survey

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1. Introduction

1.1 The questionnaire survey and the evaluation methodology

The methodological approach adopted by the evaluation team consisted of reconstruction of the intervention logic, formulation of the Evaluation Questions, collection of information and finally an analysis and synthesis of the findings with a view to formulation of conclusions and recommendations.

The collection of information phase aims at gathering findings from different sources to substantiate the indicators, validate the judgement criteria and answer the Evaluation Questions. This phase has been focused on a sample of 29 SPP identified with the Reference Group. Three main information sources have been used by the evaluation team for collection of findings on this sample: a documentary analysis, a questionnaire survey and the field visits¹, as well as interviews with resource persons of the Commission Services in Brussels and Luxembourg. This questionnaire survey is thus one of the tools for the collection of the required information and is meant to provide a broader picture on the opinions and practices of actors involved in the selected Commission-supported SPP.

Four different questionnaires were computed for three different types of audience (see also section below):

- The national statistical institutions (questionnaire Q1);
- The regional statistical schools (questionnaire Q1school);
- The Delegations, other Services of the EC and regional institutions in the partner countries (questionnaires Q2 and Q2school).

1.2 Design of the questionnaire

Two groups of two questionnaires have been computed for different types of SPP and for different audiences. The first group of questionnaires (Q1 and Q2) are targeted on the National Statistical Institutes of the partner country or region (Q1) and the Delegations, other Services of the EC and regional institutions (Q2). The other group of two questionnaires (Q1school and Q2school) are exclusively targeted on the statistical schools (Q1school) and the EC Delegation and Services (Q2school) managing the SPP addressing the statistical schools.

¹ The field visits were carried out in Zambia, Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco, Egypt and Ukraine. The evaluation team has also undertaken a mission to Paris to meet the Directors of the African statistical schools. A telephone conference was also organised with resource persons in Niger, namely the main partners of SPP and the delegation of the Commission.

The structure of the four questionnaires is as follows:

1. Identification.
2. Design, relevance of the project.
3. Sustainable capacity building.
4. Implementation of the project.

Within each group of questionnaires the questions are as similar as possible in order to facilitate a comparison of the opinions of the beneficiaries with those of the managers of the selected SPP.

The questionnaires have been refined and tested with the assistance of professionals in close consultation with the Commission Services, in particular ESTAT. They consist of closed questions on different topics needing either “yes” or “no” answers or a numerical rating; and open questions needing comment. They have been compiled in four different languages, French, English, Spanish and Portuguese, the respective working languages of the targeted institutions.

1.3 Modalities of the questionnaire

With the collaboration of the Reference Group, the recipients of the questionnaires were identified and the forms were then addressed to individuals, not just to their institutions. The procedure for sending the questionnaires consisted of two steps:

1. The questionnaires was first sent to the EC Delegations in charge of SPP, each with an introductory letter from the Evaluation Unit and an explanatory letter indicating the SPP selected for the country concerned and for the national statistical institutions, ministries and other organisations targeted for the questionnaire. The questionnaires were addressed by the Delegation to these target institutions to impart an official status to the procedure.
2. Where the Delegation was not involved in the selected SPP, the questionnaires were sent directly to the partner institutions.

If no reply was received after the first deadline, the questionnaire was systematically re-sent direct to the person targeted.

Where the selected SPP were components of the projects to be analysed during the field missions, the questionnaire was discussed during the interviews and completed (if not already done) by the targeted person. This was also the case at the focus group meeting with the Directors of the statistical schools in Paris and during the interviews with resource persons at the Commission in Brussels and Luxembourg.

1.4 Synthesis tables of the recipients and respondents of the questionnaires

Recipients of and respondents to Questionnaire Q1			
Region	Recipients	Respondents	Response rate
ACP	40	12	30%
MEDA	32	17	53%
ALA	14	11	79%
TACIS	38	35	92%
TOTAL	124	75	60%

Recipients of and respondents to Questionnaire Q2			
Region	Recipients	Respondents	Response rate
ACP	25	12	48%
MEDA	2	2	100%
ALA	12	3	25%
TACIS	9	7	78%
TOTAL	48	25	50%

Recipients of and respondents to Questionnaire Q1schools			
	Recipients	Respondents	Response rate
TOTAL	16	12	75%

Recipients of and respondents to Questionnaire Q2schools			
	Recipients	Respondents	Response rate
TOTAL	20	8	40%

Remark: only two questionnaires Q2 have been sent in the MEDA region as the EC delegations were not involved in the MEDSTAT 1 programme and could thus not complete the questionnaire.

2. Aggregate results of questionnaires Q1 and Q2

The following tables have been compiled on the basis of the answers of the questionnaires Q1 and Q2. Most of the questions in the two questionnaires are similar and their answers in Q1 and Q2 are presented together in the same table. Some other questions are specific to one questionnaire. In that case, the tables with the answers to Q1 (or Q2) are presented separately.

It should be noted that:

- The percentages indicated in the tables are computed with reference to the total number of answers to each question, except for the percentages of non-respondents which is computed with reference to the total number of respondents to the questionnaire, unless otherwise indicated in the tables.
- When the recipient was asked to give a rating between 1 and 5 on several topics, three types of synthesised data are given: the mean (i.e. the arithmetic average of answers for this criterion), the dispersion (i.e. the standard deviation/mean) and the relative importance in % (i.e. the answers to the criterion as a proportion of the “yes” answers to the main question).

2.1 Questions related to the design and the relevance of the SPP supported by the Commission

Q1 (75 respondents)		Q2 (25 respondents)																	
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Has your institution been involved in the identification and/or preparation of the project?</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>93%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>% of non-respondents to this question</i></td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </table>		Has your institution been involved in the identification and/or preparation of the project?		Yes	93%	No	7%	<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	0%										
Has your institution been involved in the identification and/or preparation of the project?																			
Yes	93%																		
No	7%																		
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	0%																		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>If no, please comment?</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Comments Q1:</i> For regional programmes, the national statistical institutes have been less implicated in the preparation of the project and the EC has directly handled that phase with regional organisations or regional task forces. (3 comments out of 5).</td> </tr> </table>		<i>If no, please comment?</i>		<i>Comments Q1:</i> For regional programmes, the national statistical institutes have been less implicated in the preparation of the project and the EC has directly handled that phase with regional organisations or regional task forces. (3 comments out of 5).															
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<i>Comments Q1:</i> For regional programmes, the national statistical institutes have been less implicated in the preparation of the project and the EC has directly handled that phase with regional organisations or regional task forces. (3 comments out of 5).																			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>If yes, do you think that your position was taken into account in the final project?</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Your position was not considered.</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Your position was partially taken into account.</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Most of your comments were considered.</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Your position was fully taken into account.</td> <td>29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>% of non-respondents to this question (with reference to those who respondent "yes" to the question above)</i></td> <td>7%</td> </tr> </table>		<i>If yes, do you think that your position was taken into account in the final project?</i>		Your position was not considered.	2%	Your position was partially taken into account.	14%	Most of your comments were considered.	55%	Your position was fully taken into account.	29%	<i>% of non-respondents to this question (with reference to those who respondent "yes" to the question above)</i>	7%						
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Your position was fully taken into account.	29%																		
<i>% of non-respondents to this question (with reference to those who respondent "yes" to the question above)</i>	7%																		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Is the final project in line with national priorities?</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>96%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>% of non-respondents to this question</i></td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </table>		Is the final project in line with national priorities?		Yes	96%	No	4%	<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	1%	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>In your view is the project necessary to formulate, implement, monitor or evaluate the priority policies of the partner country/region?</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>% of non-respondents to this question</i></td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </table>		In your view is the project necessary to formulate, implement, monitor or evaluate the priority policies of the partner country/region?		Yes	100%	No	0%	<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	0%
Is the final project in line with national priorities?																			
Yes	96%																		
No	4%																		
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	1%																		
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Yes	100%																		
No	0%																		
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	0%																		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Is the final project in line with regional priorities?</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>% of non-respondents to this question</i></td> <td>20%</td> </tr> </table>		Is the final project in line with regional priorities?		Yes	95%	No	5%	<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	20%										
Is the final project in line with regional priorities?																			
Yes	95%																		
No	5%																		
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	20%																		

To what extent does the final project take into account current and past experiences?	Q1	Q2
The project is totally new regarding past statistical supports.	29%	34%
The project is the continuation of interventions implemented in the past.	71%	66%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	7%	0%
<i>In the case that the project is a continuation, does the project take into account lessons learned from the past?</i>		
Yes	96%	100%
No	4%	0%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question (with reference to those who responded that the project is a continuation of past intervention)</i>	3%	0%

In the case that the project is new, to what extent is the project innovative?

Comments Q1: 3 comments out of 17 state that the SPP allowed a better coordination and exchange of information between statistical actors. New methodologies such as the use of mirror statistics (2 comments) and new production of statistics such as environmental statistics (3 comments) have been implemented through SPP.

Comments Q2: SPP supported by the Commission are, for some countries/regions, entirely innovative in the sense that it is the first time such projects are being implemented (4 comments out of 11).

2.2 Questions related to the sustainable capacity building of the institution supported by the Commission

Q1 (75 respondents)	Q2 (25 respondents)	
Did the programme/project supported by the European Commission contribute in sustainable capacity building of the institution, for collection, production and dissemination of statistical information?	Q1	Q2
Yes	92%	91%
No	8%	9%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	3%	8%

If no, why?

Comments Q1: The main reason why the EC contribution was not sustainable is because of lack of financing and human resources (3 comments out of 8).

Comments Q2: Problems remain in the institutional capacity of the statistical offices in certain regions and their high dependency on donor funds. (2 comments out of 3).

<i>If yes, please appraise that contribution for the following topics.</i> <i>(The appraisal is marked from 1 – negligible contribution – to 5 – very significant contribution.)</i>	Q1			Q2		
	Mean	Disper sion	Rel imp	Mean	Disper sion	Rel imp
Acquisition and/or upgrading of equipment.	3.4	0.59	42%	4.0	0.48	71%
Access to statistical software more adapted to your needs.	3.1	0.60	49%	3.5	0.43	86%
Access to professional journals and international documentation.	2.9	0.52	79%	2.9	0.46	95%
Access to information on statistical methodologies.	3.7	0.42	82%	4.3	0.17	95%
Strengthened organisational and legal position of your institution (financial independence, support to organisation...)	3.1	0.60	39%	3.6	0.52	81%
Improved availability of your staff.	2.7	0.64	42%	3.1	0.55	62%
Improved professional skills of your staff.	3.9	0.22	91%	4.1	0.29	90%
<i>In that last case, indicate what support was used:</i>						
On-the-job training provided by technical assistants.	90%			95%		
Study tours, seminars, workshops.	100%			84%		
Trainings of more than two weeks.	21%			47%		

<i>In order to ensure the sustainability of these improvements, do you think that:</i>	Q1	Q2
Human resources are enough qualified?		
Yes	74%	75%
No	26%	25%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of sustainable capacity building</i>	9%	5%
Financial capacities are sufficient?		
Yes	38%	28%
No	62%	72%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of sustainable capacity building</i>	9%	14%
Available equipments are sufficient?		
Yes	62%	32%
No	38%	68%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of sustainable capacity building</i>	9%	10%
Available time corresponds to required tasks?		
Yes	60%	79%
No	40%	21%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of sustainable capacity building</i>	10%	10%

<i>Comments on the sustainability of the improvements</i>
<i>Comments Q1:</i> The comments on sustainability state that one of the problems is the NSI's incapability of keeping qualified staff because of lack of budget and equipment (7 comments out of 27). To improve the sustainability of the results, long term technical assistant is needed (4 comments out of 27).
<i>Comments Q2:</i> The NSI are too dependent on international funds and cannot sustain the results (3 comments out of 15). It seems that the transfer of knowledge is sustainable but there is always a risk that qualified staff leave the NSI (3 comments out of 15).

2.3 Questions related to the improvement of the quality of the statistical information

Q1 (75 respondents)	Q2 (25 respondents)
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Did the programme/project supported by the European Commission contribute improving the quality of the statistical information produced in the area it covered?	Q1	Q2
Yes	93%	92%
No	7%	8%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	5%	0%

<i>If yes, please appraise that contribution for the following topics. (The appraisal is marked from 1 – negligible contribution – to 5 – very significant contribution)</i>	Q1			Q2		
	Mean	Dispersion	Rel. Imp.	Mean	Dispersion	Rel. Imp.
Reduce delays to make the information produced available to the users	3.0	0.64	64%	3.7	0.32	91%
Increased frequency of data collection.	2.8	0.65	53%	3.6	0.37	78%
Homogeneity of statistical series over time.	3.4	0.56	62%	3.8	0.27	78%
Improved data records.	3.7	0.42	88%	3.5	0.25	74%
Improved access to meta-information (information on methods, concepts, nomenclature).	3.6	0.44	79%	3.9	0.19	83%
Improved comparability with international statistics..	3.9	0.30	88%	3.8	0.33	83%
Improved coverage of existing statistics.	3.6	0.41	82%	3.7	0.30	83%
Production of new statistics	3.0	0.54	55%	3.5	0.56	43%
Other	3.6	0.49	12%	3.0	0.88	9%

<i>In order to ensure the sustainability of these improvements, do you think that:</i>	Q1	Q2
Human resources are enough qualified?		
Yes	66%	71%
No	34%	29%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of improvement of the quality of the statistical information</i>	8%	16%
Financial capacities are sufficient?		
Yes	33%	35%
No	67%	65%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of improvement of the quality of the statistical information</i>	14%	20%
Available equipments are sufficient?		
Yes	67%	48%
No	33%	52%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of improvement of the quality of the statistical information</i>	14%	16%
Available time corresponds to required tasks?		
Yes	54%	75%
No	46%	25%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question of improvement of the quality of the statistical information</i>	15%	20%

2.4 Questions related to the improvement of the national/regional statistical system as a whole

Q1 (75 respondents)	Q2 (25 respondents)
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Beyond effects on your institution, did the programme/project supported by the European Commission contribute in improving the national/regional statistical system as a whole?	Q1	Q2
Yes	97%	100%
No	3%	0%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	9%	12%

<i>If yes, please appraise that contribution for the following topics. (The appraisal is marked from 1 – negligible contribution – to 5 – very significant contribution)</i>	Q1			Q2		
	Mean	Disper sion	Rel. Imp.	Mean	Disper sion	Rel. Imp.
Strengthened capacities to follow-up the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the Millennium Development Goals.	2.9	0.59	48%	3.3	0.43	86%
Strengthened capacities to follow-up the regional integration process.	3.6	0.50	65%	3.9	0.43	91%
Improved exchange of information with other producers of statistics.	3.9	0.46	76%	4.0	0.34	91%
Other	4.0	0.57	5%	4.0	0.56	18%

Did your country have a National Council for Statistics prior to the launch of the SPP?	
Yes	40%
No	60%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	23%

<i>If yes, did the project/programme contribute in improving the functioning of this Council?</i>	
Yes	41%
No	59%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "yes" to the question on the National council</i>	4%

<i>If no, did the project/programme contribute in the establishment of such Council, or did it make the situation favourable for such a creation?</i>	
Yes	22%
No	78%
<i>% of non-respondents with reference to those who answered "no" to the question on the National council</i>	9%

2.5 Questions related to the external circulation of the statistical information produced in the framework of the SPP supported by the Commission

Q1 (75 respondents)	Q2 (25 respondents)
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Does the institution circulate externally the statistical information produced in the framework of the programme/project?	Q1	Q2
Yes	85%	92%
No	5%	8%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	9%	0%

<i>If yes, to whom is this information distributed?</i>	Q1	Q2
The general public.	94%	83%
The government.	84%	83%
Other public bodies.	77%	78%
International institutions.	88%	87%

<i>If yes, what information tools are used?</i>	Q1	Q2
Internet	72%	83%
Paper or electronic publications	88%	87%
Other information tools	28%	26%

<i>If yes, are there systematically explanations attached to the statistical information distributed</i>	Q1	Q2
Yes	89%	57%
No	11%	13%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	0%	30%

<i>If yes, have seminars or meetings with users of statistical information been organised?</i>	Q1	Q2
Yes	69%	52%
No	31%	30%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	0%	17%

2.6 Question related to the implementation of the project

Q1 (75 respondents)				Q2 (25 respondents)		
In your view, which factors have constrained the implementation of the project? <i>(The appraisal is marked from 1 – negligible contribution – to 5 – very significant contribution)</i>	Q1			Q2		
	Mean	Dispersion	Rel. Imp.	Mean	Dispersion	Rel. Imp.
Insufficient financial resources devoted to the SPP.	2.3	0.72	48%	2.2	0.68	64%
Insufficient financial resources devoted to the institution.	2.5	0.63	44%	2.1	0.71	60%
Insufficient expertise of technical assistants involved in the SPP.	1.9	0.67	43%	1.9	0.75	68%
Weaknesses internal to the institutions in terms of capacities, technical support and/or human resources.	2.2	0.60	52%	2.7	0.54	76%
Excessive complexity of administrative procedures.	3.0	0.57	52%	3.8	0.36	80%
Problems of cooperation between several donors.	2.1	0.68	39%	2.0	0.59	72%
Other	3.7	0.49	9%	4.0	0.25	12%

2.7 Overall question

Q1 (75 respondents)	Q2 (25 respondents)
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Overall, if the programme/project supported by the Commission is finished or nearly finished, to what extent has it reached its objectives?	Q1	Q2
Not successful project.	0%	0%
Objectives partially reached.	21%	22%
Majority of objectives realised.	68%	65%
Successful project.	11%	13%
<i>% of non-respondents to this question</i>	12%	8%

Comments on how could the SPP be more effective in the future

Comments Q1: Out of the comments received, five main themes can be extracted:

- as regards project financing, interruptions in the provision of resources should be avoided. Financial disbursement should also be clear and planned in such a way as to avoid delays in the implementation of activities.
- administrative procedures should be simplified and more flexible
- concerning regional programmes, member states should be more involved in the preparation and implementation of the projects, there should be a better decentralisation, and the activities should be adapted to the situation of each country. The approach should also be different for each country in the region, the rhythm of implementation should be adapted to the national progress results as well as the financial resources.
- continuity in the project should be addressed and the contribution of technical assistance should be longer with greater involvement of national experts. Changeover of partner should also be avoided.
- Longer training programmes and workshops are needed and they should be more focused on statisticians producing and handling statistical data and on those involved in the project.

Comments Q2: The main issues arising from the comments on how should SPP be improved in the future are the following:

- there is a need for a long-term vision of the projects to ensure the future of the statistical activities after the end of the project;
- more financial resources should be addressed to SPP and the disbursement of funds should be accelerated;
- administrative procedures should also be simplified and more flexible;
- coordination between the national statistical actors should be improved and data exchange should be enhanced.
- the involvement in the projects of professional statisticians knowledgeable of European statistics and standards is limited as most of them are working at Eurostat.

3. Aggregate results of questionnaires Q1schools and Q2schools

The following tables have been compiled on the basis of the answers of the questionnaires **Q1schools** and **Q2schools**. Most of the questions in the two questionnaires are similar and their answers to Q1schools and Q2schools are presented together in the same table. Some other questions are specific to one questionnaire. In that case, the tables with the answers to Q1schools (or Q2schools) are presented separately.

It should be noted that:

- The percentages indicated in the tables are computed with reference to the total number of answers to each question, except for the percentages of non-respondents which is computed with reference to the total number of respondent to the questionnaire, unless otherwise indicated in the tables.
- When the recipient is asked to give a rating between 1 and 5 on several topics, three types of synthetised data are given: the mean (i.e. the arithmetic average of answers for this criterion), the dispersion (i.e. the standard deviation/mean) and the relative importance in % (i.e. the answers to the criterion as a proportion of the “yes” answers to the main question).
- The questions and answers are only in French as the working language of the statistical schools targeted is French.

3.1 Questions related to the design and the relevance of the SPP supported by the Commission

Q1schools (12 respondents)		Q2schools (8 respondents)	
Votre institution a-t-elle été associée à l'identification et/ou la préparation du projet?			
Oui	33%		
Non	67%		
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	0%		
Si oui, estimez vous que vos attentes ont été prises en compte?			
Aucune prise en compte	0%		
Prise en compte partielle	0%		
Forte prise en compte	100%		
Totale prise en compte	0%		
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	0%		

Le projet/programme final contribue-t-il à la poursuite des priorités régionales visant au renforcement des capacités statistiques, et/ou des priorités nationales des pays utilisateurs de votre institution ?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Oui	100%	100%
Non	0%	0%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	0%	0%

Dans quelles mesures le projet final a-t-il pris en compte l'existant et les expériences du passé?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Le projet est totalement novateur par rapport aux appuis statistiques passés.	13%	33%
Le projet est la continuité d'activités entreprises par le passé.	88%	67%
<i>Dans ce dernier cas, la définition du projet a-t-elle pris en compte les bilans des activités passées?</i>		
Oui	100%	100%
Non	0%	0%
<i>% de non réponse (en référence à ceux qui ont répondu que le projet est la continuité d'activités passées)</i>	0%	0%

3.2 Questions related to the sustainable capacity building of the institution supported by the Commission

Q1schools (12 respondents)	Q2schools (8 respondents)	
Avez-vous connaissance, dans les pays d'où sont ressortissants les bénéficiaires des bourses des programme/projet de la Commission, de mesures permettant le maintien des boursiers dans le système statistique national?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Oui	67%	0%
Non	33%	100%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Avez-vous mené et/ou contribué à des études de suivi des bénéficiaires des programmes/projets appuyés par la Commission?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Oui	67%	100%
Non	33%	0%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Le programme/projet appuyé par la Commission a-t-il renforcé de façon durable la capacité des écoles partenaires à former des statisticiens compétents?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Oui	100%	100%
Non	0%	0%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>

Pour assurer la pérennité de ces améliorations, estimez-vous disposer de:	Q1schools	Q2schools
Ressources humaines suffisamment qualifiées		
Oui	67%	100%
Non	33%	0%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Capacités financières satisfaisantes?		
Oui	67%	50%
Non	33%	50%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Dotation en équipements adaptées?		
Oui	33%	50%
Non	67%	50%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
Suffisamment de temps pour les activités prévues ?		
Oui	50%	100%
Non	50%	0%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>0%</i>

Le programme/projet appuyé par la Commission a-t-il amélioré de façon durable la capacité des écoles partenaires à répondre aux besoins de formation des pays ou des organisations régionales?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Oui	100%	50%
Non	0%	50%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>

Le programme/projet appuyé par la Commission Européenne a-t-il amélioré les programmes de formation et les méthodes pédagogiques en vigueur dans les écoles partenaire, ainsi que la qualité pédagogique et technique de vos personnels enseignants ?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Oui	100%	50%
Non	0%	50%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>

Selon vous, les activités développées dans le cadre du programme/projet ont-elles permis de développer la demande des décideurs en information statistique et l'utilisation plus systématique des informations produites ?	Q1schools	Q2schools
Oui	100%	100%
Non	0%	0%
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>0%</i>

3.3 Question related to the implementation of the project

Q1schools (12 respondents)		Q2schools (8 respondents)				
Selon vous, quels facteurs ont pu limiter le bon déroulement du projet? <i>(L'appréciation est notée de 1 – représentant une influence nulle – à 5 – représentant une influence très significative.)</i>	Q1schools			Q2schools		
	Mean	Disper sion	Rel. Imp.	Mean	Disper sion	Rel. Imp.
Insuffisance des ressources financières affectées au projet.	5.0	0.00	33%	1.0	0.00	100%
Insuffisance des ressources financières disponibles pour l'institution.	3.3	0.39	100%	3.0	0.00	50%
Manque d'expertise des assistants techniques ayant appuyé la mise en œuvre.	1.0	0.00	67%	1.0	0.00	100%
Faiblesses internes à votre institution en termes de compétences, de support technique, et/ou de ressources humaines.	1.7	0.59	100%	1.5	0.36	100%
Procédures administratives jugées trop longues et trop complexes.	2.3	0.21	100%	1.0	0.00	100%
Manque de coopération entre différents bailleurs de fonds.	3.0	0.00	33%	1.0	0.00	100%

3.4. Overall question

Q1schools (12 respondents)		Q2schools (8 respondents)	
Si le programme/projet est achevé ou en cours de finalisation, dans quelles mesures a-t-il globalement atteint ses objectifs?	Q1schools	Q2schools	
Echec complet.	0%	0%	
Atteinte partielle des objectifs du projet.	0%	0%	
Atteinte d'une majorité des objectifs du projet.	100%	100%	
Succès total du projet.	0%	0%	
<i>% de ceux qui n'ont pas répondu à cette question</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	

Annex 11 – Synthesis of Field Missions and Meeting with the Directors of the French Speaking Statistical Schools

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List of Acronyms

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (countries)
ADB	African Development Bank
ADETEF	Assistance au Développement des Echanges en Technologies Economiques et Financières
AFRISTAT	Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne
AIDCO	EuropeAid Co-operation Office
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (Egypt)
CARICOM	Caribbean Commission
CEDEAO	Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
CEMAC	Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale
CESD	Centre Européen pour la Statistique et le Développement
CIDA	Canadian Development Agency
CILSS	Comité Inter états pour la Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel
CNPE	Cellule Nationale de Politique Economique
COCOES	Coordinating Committe for Statistical Studies
CODESA	Conférence des Directeurs des Ecoles de Statistiques
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMSTAT	Programme de Développement Statistique de l'UEMOA
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CREST	Centre de Recherche en Economie et Statistique (Groupe GENES)
CSLP	Cellule de Suivi de la Lutte contre la Pauvreté
CSO	Central Statistical Office (Zambia)
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department For International Development
DG ESTAT	General Directorate for Statistics (= Eurostat)
DG RELEX	Directorate General for External Relations of the European Commission
DIAPER	Programme Régional « Amélioration des Instruments du Diagnostic Permanent pour la Sécurité Alimentaire Régionale »(Diagnostic Permanent)
DNSI	Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique (Mali)
EAC	Eastern African Community
EARSTS	East Africa Regional Statistical Strategy

EASTC	Eastern African Statistical Training Centre
ECHEMS	The Environment Data Base of the MEDA region
ECOSTAT	Programme de Développement Régional de la Statistique de la CEDEAO
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EDP	Electronic Data Processing
EDULINK	Programme d'Appui aux Etablissements Supérieurs des Etats ACP
EMIS	Education Management Information System
ENEA	Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée (Dakar)
ENEA/DSD	Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée, Département de la Statistique Démographique
ENSAE	Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique, Paris (Groupe GENES)
ENSAI	Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse de l'Information, Rennes (Groupe GENES)
ENSEA	Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (Abidjan)
EPA	Etablissement Public Administratif
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	The statistical office of the European Community (= ESTAT)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSO	Statistical Office of Germany
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GENES	Groupe des Ecoles d'Economie et de Statistique, INSEE
GIP	Groupement d'Intérêt Public
GIS	Geographical Information System
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IAMSEA	Institut Africain et Mauricien de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, Kigali, Rwanda
ICP	International Comparison Programme
IDSC	Information and Decision Support Centre (Egypt)
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INS	Institut National de la Statistique (Niger)
INSD	Institut Natinal de la Statistique et de la Démographe (Burkina Faso)
INSEA	Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Economie Appliquée

INSEE	Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques, France
IRCC	Inter-regional Coordination Committee
ISE	Ingénieur Statisticien Economiste
ISEGI	Instituto Superior de Estatística e de Gestão de Informação, Lisboa
ISPEA	Institut de Statistique, de Planification et d'Economie Appliqué, Yaoundé (transformed into ISSEA)
ISSEA	Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, Yaoundé
IT	Information Technology
ITS	Ingénieur de Travaux Statistiques
MEDA	Eur-Mediterranean Partnership Programme; Mediterranean members of the partnership.
NACE	Nomenclature d'Activités Economiques
NAP	National Action Programme
NIS	New Independent States
NIS	National Institute for Statistics
NSI	National Statistics Institute
NSO	National Statistics Office
NWC	National Working Committee
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PALOP	Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa
PARI	Programmed'Appui Régional à l'Intégration
PARSTAT	Programme d'Appui Regional à la Statistique
PASISA	Programme Action pour un Système d'Information sur la Sécurité Alimentaire
PCA	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
PIU	Project/Programme Implementation Unit
PMU	Project/Programme Management Unit
PRGP	Programme de Renforcement de la Gestion Budgétaire (Burkina Faso)
PROSMIC	Programme Statistique Minimum Commun
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strate gy Paper
PTA	Preferential Trade Arrangement
RCC	(COMESA) Regional Computing Centre
RHCTSS	Regional Harmonisation of Customs and Trade Statistics Systems (COMESA)
RICTSP	Regional Information and Communication Technology Sector Programme
RIO	Regional Integration Organisation
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
RISP	Regional Integration Support Programme

RSP	Regional Strategy Paper
SACU	Southern Africa Customs Union
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SCD	Single Customs Document
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SNDS	Stratégie Nationale pour le Développement de la Statistique
SPP	Statistics Projects and Programmes
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures
SSCU	State Statistical Committee of Ukraine
STATCAP	Statistical Capacity Building Programme (World Bank)
TA	Technical Assistance
TACIS	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States; the beneficiary countries.
ToR	Terms of Reference
UDEAC	Union Douanière des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
UK	Unitted Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	Unites States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation

1. Introduction

This annex presents the synthesis of the four field missions conducted in the context of this evaluation. They covered the following regions and countries:

- ACP region
 - Field visit to Zambia/Comesa (26th June – 1st July 2006), intended for analysis of (i) the statistical interventions of the Commission in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region and agreed with the COMESA, and (ii) the bilateral statistical programme with Zambia.
 - Field visit to West Africa/Burkina Faso – Mali – Niger (June-July 2006). This circular mission was designed to permit analysis of the regional programmes of the Commission directed to the UEMOA and the CILSS, and the bilateral statistical programmes in the countries visited.
- TACIS region
 - Field visit to Ukraine (10th-15th July 2006). This visit was intended for assessment of the successive Tacis Statistics programmes implemented in Ukraine.
- MEDA Region
 - Two field visits were conducted:
 - To Morocco and Egypt (17th-21th July and 4th-8th September 2006 respectively). Since both field visits were related to assessment of the implementation of the MEDSTAT regional programmes in these two countries, only one field visit note was produced to better highlight the similarities and dissimilarities observed in the two countries.

The annex also includes an account of the meeting held with the directors of three schools of statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa that participated in the COMSTAT project; this meeting was held in Paris on 4th July 2006, on the occasion of the meeting of the CODESA (Comité d'Orientation des Ecoles de Statistique en Afrique). It also involved representatives from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (statistical co-operation) and the INSEE). Because of budgetary constraints, no visit could be organised in the training centres or statistical schools in the Anglophone countries of Eastern Africa although it might have been interesting to compare the situation in the schools supported by COMSTAT and that in the training centres that benefited from other projects in this part of Africa (EASTC : East African Statistical Training Centre in Dar-Es-Salam, and Makerere University in Kampala benefited).

This annex presents the main elements of the field mission notes and of the meeting with the directors of the statistical schools. In each case the presentation is organised in two sections: first the statistical programme of the Commission in the country/region and its objectives; and second the main achievement and issues relating to the implementation of the programme.

2. Synthesis of field visit Zambia/Comesa

2.1 The statistical programme

This section explains the Commission-supported statistical interventions implemented in Zambia, whether as the regional host of COMESA or as a bilateral partner country.

2.1.1 Statistical programmes/projects implemented in the region

a) *At regional level*

Most statistical activities supported by the Commission were directed at regional level. It is only very recently, in the context of budget support, that statistical activities have been programmed in the bilateral development co-operation programme with Zambia.

At regional level two lines of activity have been pursued.

1° A sequence of projects linked to regional integration

This line has been pursued since the early 1990s.

The 7th EDF ASYCUDA/EUROTRACE project.

Under the 7th EDF a first project, prepared under the 6th EDF, was launched “to set up a regional customs and external trade statistics computerisation system with the following immediate objective:

- Increasing efficiency in the customs process, improving revenue control;
- Installing high quality mechanism for the production of customs and trade statistics; and
- Reducing the administrative burden of the trading community at a minimum”.

The primary focus was therefore one of trade facilitation in the context of the move towards closer regional integration. The project covered the member countries of the Preferential Trade Arrangement (PTA) that was replaced by the COMESA. The project was articulated in terms of support to two broad categories of activities:

- Activities aimed at harmonisation of customs procedures (in particular adoption of a single customs document, SCD), comparability of tariffs and statistical nomenclatures, and establishment of common statistical rules.
- Activities aimed at automation and computerisation of customs procedures and processing of customs data into merchandise trade statistics:

- Automation of customs procedures with ASYCUDA software (developed and provided by UNCTAD).
- Computerisation of external trade statistics with the EUROTRACE software (developed and provided by Eurostat).
- Establishment of a COMESA Regional Computerised Centre (RCC).

This project (€6.7 million) was implemented over the period 1994-1996, thus before the time-frame of the present evaluation. It was the object of an *ex post* evaluation in 1998 that concluded that it had met its targets but that COMESA and the Member States were not yet in a position to take over the functions of the RCC. In particular at the time of the 1998 evaluation:

- Common statistical rules were adopted but not yet implemented.
- Single Good Declarations were adopted but not yet implemented.
- COMESA Member States had agreed to introduce the HS08 harmonised nomenclature but the introduction of this harmonisation was still under study.
- 14 COMESA members states had implemented or were implementing ASYCUDA, but the product needed to be maintained and upgraded by UNCTAD.
- EUROTRACE national had been implemented in 15 COMESA Member States and EUROTRACE regional was in place, but few countries were providing data; comparability and quality remained a crucial issue.
- The RCC had been established, but the COMESA and the Member States were not yet in a position to take it over.

The evaluation therefore recommended a further project with more emphasis on efficient production of statistics and circulation of information.

The RHTCSS

The Regional Harmonisation of Trade and Customs and State Statistical Systems (RHCTSS - 8 ACP ROR 1) was launched to pursue the efforts of the previous one in terms of trade facilitation, but with more focus on harmonisation. It provided a budget of €12.6 million, subsequently increased to €13.6 million. This project continued the implementation of ASYCUDA, including migration from the basic version 2.7 to ASYCUDA ++, and of EUROTRACE. UNCTAD and CESD offered a service contract for the software implementation and maintenance tasks. The project supported the implementation of harmonization procedures in both statistics and customs in close co-operation with the national customs and statistical offices. The project was managed by the Regional Computerisation Centre of the Trade Division of the COMESA Secretariat. A regional PMU was entrusted with the day-to-day management. The monitoring functions were undertaken locally by the Steering Committee, external auditors and evaluators, and a representative of the donor organisation.

The project faced funding delays that disturbed its implementation, particularly in 2003-04. Despite these problems the project allowed a majority of partner countries to install ASYCUDA and EUROTRACE, and provided a considerable volume of training.

The project ended in 2005. Two large 9th EDF regional projects of the Commission are currently being launched that include specific components for strengthening or extending activities undertaken under the RHCTSS.

The Regional Integration Support Programme (RISP)

This programme is meant to contribute to the overall objectives of the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Region's integration process. European Commission support is provided in the form of a contribution agreement of €30 million, concluded in July 2005 with the COMESA Secretariat under the 9th EDF Regional Programme for ESA. Among the eight results expected from this programme, one is directly in line with the previous RHCTSS:

“Improved harmonised production of statistical data and improved capacities at the national statistical bureaux and in the regional organisations. Improved capacity in Member States to undertake trade policy and impact analyses”.

The work programme of the COMESA envisages broadening the scope of RHCTSS to all statistics needed for regional integration, particular indicators of multilateral surveillance: national accounts, CPI (Corruption Perception Indexes), Economic Freedom, PRSP conditionalities, and others.

The RITCSP

The second programme is the Regional Information & Communications Technology Support Programme (RITCSP) signed in 2004 with a budget of €21 million. Its objective is to contribute to the ESA regional integration agenda by stimulating effective Information and Communications Technologies and removing constraints to their efficient use. This project has two key expected results that are a direct continuation of previous support.

- Continuation of support to implement and upgrade ASYCUDA for customs facilitation, and as a basis for trade statistics: “High-speed Internet connectivity provided to certain key regional stakeholders and, to further reduce costs of doing business in the region, migration to ASYCUDA ++ in selected countries” (Key result 1).
- “*Improved and more efficient access to economic, commercial and policy information*” (Key result 3) This expected result places the emphasis on dissemination, sharing of information among producers and access to information by the stakeholders. The work programme involves (i) identification of the existing statistical databases in the member countries and (ii) development, from the Inter-Regional Co-ordination Committee (IRCC), of portals and data clearing houses at the level of COMESA and the other Regional Integration Organisations (RIOs).

2° Regional projects focused on training and training institutions with a view to stimulating the supply of professional statisticians and to enhanced the professional qualification of the national statistical institutions' staff.

Over the period of the evaluation two such regional projects were launched that had differing outcomes.

The East African Statistical Training Centre (EASTC)

The EASTC was established in 1965 with support from UNDP and the UN Economic Commission for Africa in support of the member countries of the East African Common Services Organisation (EACSO), later replaced by the EAC. It provides high-level education in statistics and delivers degrees equivalent to those of similar institutions in the UK, in the form of two ten-month courses, one for the Certificate and one for the Diploma accessible to holders of the Certificate.

In 1994 the Tanzanian government, which had taken over the Centre, established it under Tanzanian law as a national institution with a regional vocation. This was a precondition of EU support. The project concerned (7 ACP RPR 284) was signed and intended to cover the period 1995-2000. The initial cost was €4.9 million to be covered by the Regional programmes for Eastern Africa (€1.2 million), Southern Africa (€0.7 million) and the Tanzania NIP (€3 million). Eventually the 7 ACP RPR 284 was reduced to €2 million and provided funds for the development of infrastructure (student accommodation, cafeteria), 40 fellowships per year and a twinning programme with the Applied Statistics Research Unit (ASRU) of the University of Kent. Thanks to this support and the continued provision of bilateral and multilateral fellowships, enrolment rose to 31 in 1999 for the Certificate and to 30 the same year for the Diploma. It dropped dramatically in 2000 (to 13 for the Certificate and 9 for the Diploma) as the savings from the EU project that was coming to an end could not be used to fund fellowships not expected by user countries. After 2001 enrolment resumed as other donors (mainly DFID) provided fellowships.

The project has mainly contributed to an extension and upgrading of the premises of the EASTC and to the funding of scholarships. This allowed for consolidation and development of EASTC activities and provided the statistical institutions of the region with a regular, slowly increasing flow of qualified statisticians.

It should be noted that a major difference between this project and COMSTAT, developed with a similar purpose in West Africa, is that the EASTC aims specifically at providing qualified staff for the statistical institutions and mainly recruits candidate students who are already engaged in such institutions. In that sense the benefits to the national or regional statistical systems may be more substantial.

East Africa Regional Statistical Training Strategy (EARSTS)

This project (8 CP ROR 13, total commitment of €3 million) was aimed at designing and implementing a regional statistical training strategy for a first group of COMESA Member States: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The financing agreement was signed

in 1998. A similar SADC Regional Statistical Training Project, 5 ACP RAU 5, served as a model for this one which should have run in parallel with it. Two work programmes were launched, respectively for the period 1 May 2001 - 31 July 2001 (€60 000) and 1 March 2003 - 31 December 2003 (€275 000). In practice the project never started and was officially closed on 27th March 2006 without disbursement. The intention to combine and co-ordinate the recruitment and implementation procedures of the two programmes (that of SADC and this one) proved extremely complicated and raised issues of governance¹.

The objectives of the project were the following:

- To develop national and regional training strategies.
- To enhance training capacities to support regional integration as well as the region's integration into the world economy.
- To strengthen the ability of the population to monitor the Governments' performance and hold them to account through availability of improved relevant statistical data.

The design was ambitious and paid detailed attention to important issues: assessment of the initial situation, co-ordination with other donors and between different Commission interventions, gender issues. However, it proved too complicated and never started. The current RISP (see above) includes a training need assessment as the absence of such analysis was a severe handicap for the RHCTSS project.

b) At bilateral level

Apart from the local implementation of the regional projects there were no Commission-supported bilateral statistical interventions in Zambia until 2006, in which year two major statistical projects have been prepared and are about to be launched:

- Education Management Information System (EMIS), €3 million.
- Health Management Information System (HMIS), €4 million.

They are being provided in the context of institutional building complementary to the European Commission's Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRSB) to Zambia.

These projects find their justification in the difficulties and delays faced by the Government of Zambia with respect to monitoring its PRSP and meeting the reporting requirements (both for assessment of PRSP progress and for release of budget aid tranches by donors). They are in line with the emphasis given to monitoring and evaluation of

¹ The project documents of the EARSTS (see project fiche) tend to indicate that if the project had materialised the training strategy, that responded to a need, could have had an impact on the development of quality statistics. It is therefore worth verifying the situation in the similar project in the SADC region (5 ACP RAU SADC Regional Training Strategy Project). Available documentation and monitoring reports for that project point to an extreme difficulty in launching it. The project due to start in 1999 faced an initial delay of 22 months and in 2002 no training activities had been launched yet. The monitoring reports confirm, however, the relevance of the project and the opportunity for SADC to use the project to facilitate the needs of the member states. However, the project took off very recently and there is as yet no documentation allowing drawing of firm conclusions on the effectiveness and impact so far. It is likely that both projects, the EARSTS and the SADC one suffered from overambitious design and complicated decision mechanisms. The willingness to link the EARSTS and SADC projects probably created additional difficulties rather than raising opportunities for economies of scales and transfer of experience.

policies in the National Development Programme of Zambia 2006-2010. They depart from “first generation” statistical support projects accompanying budgetary aid that concentrated on production of specific indicators. In the EMIS and HMIS a systemic approach is employed to develop comprehensively the whole information system of the sectors supported, from ministerial level down to local units (schools and hospitals). In this way the projects address directly the production and quality of primary data. They are also designed to raise the awareness of stakeholders, in their respective sectors, of the importance of quality data and of its use in policy design, implementation and monitoring.

A striking feature of these projects is their design: it is comprehensive and systemic in the sphere of their respective sectors and ministries. However, the issue of developing the national statistical system so that it also covers the social sectors in a coherent, non fragmented way and with homogeneity of organisation, quality and regulatory aspects is either not or is only marginally addressed.

2.1.2 Mechanisms of implementation

Apart from the very recent HMIS and EMIS, all statistical projects have been conducted at regional level and channelled through regional institutions. Over the evaluation period two points are worth noting as they relate to changes that had important implications: the signature of a Contribution Agreement between the Commission and the COMESA, and the replacement of CESD in the statistical projects.

The implementation mechanisms have been those of traditional projects, with the exception of the 9th EDF RISP which is a *Contribution Agreement*. Under this system the partner organisation is subject to a preliminary audit of its accountability and financial capacity. On the basis of a mutually agreed strategy and work plan, it integrate the funds provided by the Commission into its own resources and spends them according to its own procedures. Funds are released in tranches and the programme is monitored on the basis of intermediate and final indicators.

It is too early to assess, in the case of COMESA, the consequences of these modalities. In principle they allow the Secretariat of the COMESA to have the full command of the resources provided by the Commission to articulate them with its own resources for the conduct of its policy programme.

Interviews with staff members of the COMESA Secretariat indicate that the system gives them much more flexibility in conducting policy. On the other hand, interviews with actors in the national statistical office highlighted difficulties at that level. In a traditional project, the implementing agencies operate within a well defined framework, their contacts with the task manager of the contracting authority lying exclusively within the boundaries of that context. Under a Contribution Agreement the implementing agencies, for instance the statistical offices, need to engage in a strategic dialogue with the partner organisation which tries to manage its resources as efficiently as possible in relation to its policy objectives. This puts the implementation agency in continuous competition with the other users of the resources provided by the partner organisation. At field level the implementing agencies may need to undergo a learning process to adapt to the change.

The CESD was deeply involved in the statistical projects until 2003. After the dismantlement of the CESD, the COMESA Secretariat hired independent experts and benefited from Eurostat technical advice. According to the interviewees the new system is better. Previously Eurostat and CESD were acting as troubleshooters (“jumping in a plane in response to any incident”) and this discouraged responsibility and ownership. Under the present system the COMESA Secretariat (i) works with its own staff and troubleshooting has to be done with in-house resources, (ii) has the capacity to assess the quality of the statistical services in the Member States and can use competences observed in one country to provide assistance to another member state. The internalisation of the troubleshooting function has generated an important learning process and increased responsibility. As Eurostat has moved into an advisory role, interaction with that institution is regarded as much more effective and constructive.

2.1.3 Interaction with other donors

Few direct interfaces exist with other donors in the statistical projects conducted so far, except for the RHCTSS since ASYCUDA is provided by UNCTAD.

Both COMESA and the CSO of Zambia co-operate with other donors, mainly IMF and the WB. The African Development Bank has become an important interlocutor of both the COMESA Secretariat and the CSO of Zambia, in the context of its programme to promote national statistical strategies.

2.2 Main achievement and issues

2.2.1 Main achievements

The consistent pursuit of the objective of providing information in support for regional integration has undoubtedly been successful.

Indicators of success can be observed and are largely linked to the successive and consistent interventions of the Commission in the area of trade statistics:

- Ten years ago regional trade statistics were non-existent. A first bulletin with regional trade statistics appeared in 1999. Compared to that first bulletin, a more recent publication (covering 2003) and a forthcoming publication containing 2004 data show significant improvements: there are more statistics, the number of countries and sectors covered has increased, quality has improved although it remains a major issue (see *infra*), delays have been shortened mostly as a result of improved transmission between the Customs and statistical offices of the Member States and between the national and regional statistical offices.
- Both at regional level and in the national statistical offices the capacity to assess the data transmitted and point out inconsistencies has improved; this is a major advance.
- The capacity to use tools - Eurotrace, capacity to present tables, compute indices, etc, has improved.

- There is evidence of effective use of the statistical material for analysis and for preparation of the various aspects of regional integration and for assessment of the consequences of international trade agreements.

Two explanatory factors, both influenced by the projects supported by the Commission, may be identified as particularly instrumental in these improvements:

- Interaction between actors brought about by the projects: between statisticians and revenue authorities, between NSOs and their colleagues in other countries, between national NSOs, revenue authorities and COMESA. These contacts and exchanges have increasingly become part of the routine in the most advanced cases and in the worst cases an awareness of their need has been created. The best examples are (i) an improvement of the relationship between revenue authorities and the CSO of Zambia where a spirit of defiance and absence of concern for the needs and constraints of the other institution has been replaced by constructive co-operation; (ii) the improvement in co-operation between the various statistical offices of the Member States from more regular routine transfer of trade data to exchange of officers for training purposes. This had opened minds and stimulated competition for quality among the statistical services.
- Continuous support of the same donors in the same domain. The lengthy co-operation between the European Commission, COMESA and the NSOs generated by the successive regional projects has been fruitful. The opinion of beneficiaries on this is very clear: the possibility of working for a long period with the same donor on the same subject is much more valuable than co-ordination between donors, as it reduces the learning process associated with each change of donor and enables better convergence of donor and beneficiary on objectives that require long-term efforts.

2.2.2 Major issues

The relative success of the regional statistical projects should not be allowed to obscure the existence of problems. The main ones concern quality of data and sustainability of the results achieved. Two other issues relate to efficiency and the absence of links between different interventions.

Quality

Even though progress has been achieved, external trade data remain of insufficient quality:

- Mirror exercises reveal discrepancies of 30% or more in many cases.
- Data on quantities, and therefore on unit values, are not published because the statistical department of COMESA sees their quality as insufficient.
- Harmonisation of classifications and methods is still very partial.

Sustainability

Sustainability is not achieved, or only partially.

- The technical capacity of the institutions involved in the production of statistics (mainly the national statistical offices, the national customs and the regional centre of the COMESA Secretariat) has been undoubtedly strengthened in terms of professional know-how and professional capacity of staff; indications of sustainability of these gains are real in the COMESA Secretariat (which recruited permanent statisticians) and in the CSO of Zambia, where turnover of staff in the department of international trade statistics is limited and where the capacity to train new recruits exists. This, however, remains very fragile and often dependent on continued external support. Another aspect of technical capacity relates to the statistical software provided by the SPP. In this domain, sustainability will depend on the technical and financial capacity to update and upgrade the software (i.e. ASYCUDA and EUROTRACE need to keep up with developments). In the past this aspect has not been taken into account in the design of the projects. It was taken care of *ex post* by the launch of successive projects that had not been anticipated: the RHCTSS was introduced to continue the previous implementation and upgrade of ASYCUDA/ EUROTRACE. The current RITCSP project will devote important resources to the implementation and upgrade of ASYCUDA (that was supposed to be done under the RHCTSS) and it is already certain that ASYCUDA++ will have to be replaced in the future since it is a character-based software that will no longer be supported by the new generation of operating systems. The cost and technical complexity of the new generation of ASYCUDA will be such that it cannot be implemented without substantial external support; yet each project is still designed as if it would be the last, with no allowance for possible continuation. For EUROTRACE the uncertainty regarding maintenance and further development by Eurostat is a threat to the sustainability of benefits in trade statistics.
- The political commitment of the Member States to deepen their regional integration is crucial for sustainability. It is particularly important for implementing the planned customs union, and therefore for strengthening statistical co-operation in the areas essential to this end (such as comparable and reliable trade data). Currently this commitment is variable among the Member States. The issue is complicated by the fact that some COMESA Member States belong to different regional arrangements and may choose to join another Customs Union (the SACU). But there are signs that the progress in the area of external trade at national and regional level will be followed through. In particular, at the level of regional organisations there is a clear dynamic in this direction. But the commitment of national parties remains a severe constraint.
- Financing. Sustainability is largely dependent on the Member States sooner or later taking over the financial burden of maintaining and upgrading technical capabilities and data production. So far the functioning of the COMESA remains crucially dependent on the support provided by the European Commission and on its spill-over from the large regional projects to national compilers of statistics.

Efficiency

Interruptions within projects and insufficient communication on the available funds (EASTC) have sometimes severely disrupted projects and reduced performance.

The cost-effectiveness of the successive projects to implement ASYCUDA and EUROTRACE is questionable.

Absence of a global vision on the statistical system

Statistical projects have been conducted, and are still being conducted, in isolation from each other. There have been no interfaces between the chain of projects supporting the development of trade statistics and the projects intended to develop regional training capacities and identify training needs. In this context interviewees mentioned that training was often the most important element of a project, yet was also the element that required better design and adaptation to specific needs.

Similarly the recent bilateral projects complementary to budget aid, the EMIS and HMIS, are conducted as autarkic sector operations without any reference to the global statistical system. The danger of this approach is that it may end in a fragmented statistical system with risks of overlaps and inconsistent methodologies.

3. Synthesis of field visit to West Africa/Burkina Faso – Mali – Niger

3.1 The statistical programme

This section explains the statistical projects supported by the Commission and implemented in the West Africa sub-region as a whole, and in particular in Burkina Faso and Mali.

Three sub-regional institutions were addressed by the “regional” projects : (a) CILSS (Centre International du Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans les pays du Sahel – International Centre for Struggling against Drought in Sahel countries) which was created in the 1970s², (b) UEMOA³ (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine – West African Economic and Monetary Union, no English acronym), created by an International treaty signed in Dakar in January 1994 to enhance the competences of the former monetary union, and (c) ECOWAS⁴ (in French, CEDEAO) – Economic Community of West African States. In addition another international organisation specialised in statistics, AFRISTAT⁵, was created by an international treaty signed in Abidjan in September 1993.

This section will, therefore, be organised as follows. A first subsection will explain the broad characteristics of the programmes/projects implemented at the level of one or other of these sub-regional organisations. The second and third subsections will respectively deal with the bilateral programmes/projects implemented in Burkina Faso and Mali.

3.1.1 Statistical Programmes/Projects implemented in the Region

a) *At Regional level*

During the period 1995 – 2005 the Commission’s support to the sub-regional institutions in West Africa could be divided in three categories:

- 1°) Considerable support for agricultural statistics and for calculation of early warning indicators to improve the quality and reliability of food security data . The project DIAPER III was implemented to that end; it was the successor of the first two

² CILSS Country members are: Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal.

³ Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte-d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo.

⁴ All the UEMOA’s countries + Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone.

⁵ AFRISTAT members are : in the “Zone Franc” countries, i.e. all the UEMOA’s countries + CEMAC countries (Cameroon, Chad, Centrafrican Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon) + Comoros; outside the Zone Franc, Cabo Verde, Guinea and Mauritania.

DIAPERs, DIAPER I that started in the 1970s and DIAPER II launched around 1995; the executive agency was the CILSS and the main contractor was the DIAPER branch AGRHYMET, located in Niamey, Niger. FAO was an important partner for the three DIAPER projects.

2°) Several projects aimed at strengthening regional integration in West Africa, in partnership with the French co-operation programme:

- PARSTAT, the statistical component of the programme PARI 1 (Programme of Assistance to Regional Integration) launched at the request of the UEMOA Commission (located in Ouagadougou) in order to develop tools necessary for multilateral surveillance; PARSTAT concerned all UEMOA's Member countries.
- ECOSTAT, more or less an extension of PARSTAT to all ECOWAS countries, launched at the request of the ECOWAS Secretariat (located in Abuja, Nigeria).
- In addition, from 1996 to 1998 there was a project aimed at helping AFRISTAT to prepare the PROSMIC (Common Minimum Statistical Programme) for its Member States, and a project for preparing the software (CHAPO) to be used by the Harmonised Index for Consumer Prices (HIPC). The latter was probably funded from resources other than the EDF (European Development Fund).

3°) Considerable effort up to 2003 in support of development of the two statistical schools⁶ in the region (ENSEA-Abidjan: Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, ENEA-Dakar: Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée) through the project COMSTAT: this support was very specific and not of the same nature as the other statistical projects implemented in the region; moreover COMSTAT concerned not only West Africa but all countries South of the Sahara. For these reasons, the findings and issues arising from the COMSTAT project will be presented in a separate report.

⁶ These two schools are national but have a regional vocation, by welcoming students from all West African countries and even from outside the region (e.g. from Central Africa).

Main characteristics of these regional projects

DIAPER III 7 ACP RPR 61	€9 997 868 Disbursed: €6 984 841	CILSS
<i>Objectives:</i> Improving the quality and reliability of data concerning food security. Promoting analytical work. Statistical data and studies dissemination. Empowerment of national statistical offices in data on food and agriculture		
PARI 1 – PARSTAT 7 ACP RPR 576	€4 600 000	UEMOA AFRISTAT
<i>Objectives:</i> Meeting of the priority needs of the multilateral surveillance and of information needs of economic agents. Strengthening the capacities of the UEMOA Commission and its Member States to produce, analyse and disseminate statistical data. Strengthening the National Statistical Systems of Member States. AFRISTAT acted as a sub-contractor for this project.		
ECOSTAT 8 ACP ROC 44	€1 950 000 Disbursed: €1 485 896	ECOWAS/CEDEAO
<i>Objectives:</i> Adoption of an ECOWAS statistical development strategy. Adoption by Member States of a programme of harmonised national accounts (aiming at improving comparability between GDPs of ECOWAS and UEMOA countries), harmonised consumer price indices. Regularity of external trade data. Comparability between ECOWAS statistics and UEMOA ones. Strengthening the statistical capacities of the ECOWAS Secretariat.		
PROSMIC 7 ACP RPR 590	€720 514	AFRISTAT
<i>Objectives:</i> Support to AFRISTAT in order to strengthen through this international organisation, the organisational, programming and management capacities of the NSI, to harmonize the classifications used in Subsaharan Africa and to adapt and implement the new system of national accounts (SNA93).		
COMSTAT 7 ACP RPR 308	€10 583 000 Disbursed: €9 355 917	Statistical schools and universities all over the continent
<i>Objectives:</i> Development of pedagogic and didactic documents, and software. Payment of scholarships to students for attending courses in African schools and universities and/or for long- term or vocational training in Europe (e.g. in the Munich Training Centres). Organisation of entrance examinations.		

b) At bilateral level

The Commission's statistical support to countries can be divided into two categories:

- 1°) Purely statistical projects, generally in support for the periodical Population censuses, Population and Dwelling censuses, or Agricultural censuses, or timely support to the NSIs.
- 2°) Projects supporting policies which were developed during the period 1995–2005 and evolved from specific actions concerning the planning cells in the line ministries towards supports concerning more systematically the strategic framework for poverty reduction, or the follow up of budget support policy. In this case, statistical support is generally one of the components of a project much larger than for a purely statistical project.

In addition, of course, all West African countries benefited to a greater or lesser degree from the regional programmes.

Burkina Faso

Four programmes/projects were implemented in Burkina Faso from 1995 to 2005; only one was a purely statistical project (support to the 3rd General Population Census); the three others were included in more general projects (support for the structural adjustment policy in 1997 – 1998; and more recently, support for poverty reduction policies).

In addition, Burkina Faso benefited from regional projects, mainly PARSTAT and DIAPER. INSD (Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie) takes the view that PARSTAT had very positive outcomes, particularly in improving quality and timeliness of national accounts, a harmonised consumer price index, external trade statistics, and statistics on the informal sector. By the end of the project some remaining funds permitted a full renovation of the INSD building. Probably the most important outcome of PARSTAT was the strengthening of statistical capacities through seminars and training courses.

Main characteristics of these four bilateral projects:

Appui au 3ème Recensement Général de la Population 7 ACP BK 98	€831 317	INSD (Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie)
<i>Objectives:</i> Support for the collection and analysis of the Population Census data		
Appui à l'ajustement structurel 1997-1998 7 ACP BK 127 + 128	€21 053	INSD
<i>Objectives:</i> Small contract within the framework of a project aiming to support the structural adjustment policy.		
Appui budgétaire pour la réduction de la pauvreté 8 ACP BK 40	€665 000	INSD + Statistical Services of Social Ministries
<i>Objectives:</i> Strengthening the capacities of the Central Statistical Office (INSD) and of statistical services of Social Ministries)		
Appui à la mise en oeuvre du PRGB – ARCS 9 ACP BK 6	€500 000	Cells for Planning and Statistics of the Ministries of Education, and Health
<i>Objectives:</i> Within the framework of an important budgetary support project aimed at improving budgetary management (PRGB – Programme de Renforcement de la Gestion Budgétaire), strengthening of the capacities of the cells in charge of planning and statistics in the Ministries of Education and Health, under the supervision of the INSD.		

Mali

Four programmes/projects were implemented in Mali from 1995 to 2005; two were purely statistical projects (support for the 3rd General Population and Housing Census, and institutional support for the Planning & Statistics unit of the Ministry of Rural Development); the two others were components of more general projects (support for the poverty reduction policies) and concerned not the National Statistical Office but rather the Poverty Reduction Co-ordination Cell.

In addition, and in the same context as in Burkina Faso, Mali benefited from the regional projects PARSTAT and DIAPER. The DNSI (Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique) takes the view that PARSTAT had very positive outcomes, particularly in improving quality and timeliness of national accounts, a harmonised consumer price index, external trade statistics and statistics on the informal sector. Probably the most important outcome of PARSTAT was the strengthening of statistical capacities through seminars and training courses.

Main characteristics of these four bilateral projects:

Appui à la cellule de planification et de statistique du Ministère du Développement Rural 7 ACP MLI 124	€800 000 Disbursed : €699 880	Cell for Planning and Statistics of the Ministry of Rural Development
Objectives: Support for the implementation of an Action Plan for the Ministry of Rural Development to develop the statistical aspects of the agro-pastoral sector in Mali		
Appui au 3ème Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat 7 ACP MLI 125	€503 800	DNSI (Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique)
Objectives: Support for collection and analysis of the Population and Housing Census data		
Appui budgétaire au Cadre Stratégique de Lutte contre la Pauvreté (CSLP) 2002 – 2003 7 ACP MLI 29 + 30	€400 000	Cellule de co-ordination du CSLP
Objectives: Sampling surveys aimed at better defining poverty (€400 000) within a programme of improving institutional capacities (€815 249) in support to the Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework implemented in Mali		
Programme pluri-annuel d'appui à la réduction de la pauvreté 9 ACP MLI 6 + 7	€500 000	Cellule de co-ordination du CSLP
Objectives: Sampling surveys and analysis in support to statistical services of "social" ministries within a larger programme for improving institutional capacities (€5 000 000) of the PRSF (CSLP) Co-ordination Cell		

Niger

Two programmes or projects were implemented in Niger during the period 1995-2006; one statistical project (support to the General Population Census) and a second in the framework of capacity building for the monitoring of poverty reduction in Niger. In both cases the INS (Institut National de la Statistique du Niger) was the beneficiary.

This second project has been under preparation since 2001 but has been considerably delayed and was initiated only in early 2006. Delays related to both the Eurostat crisis and the restructuring of the INS. Indeed, as a precondition for this project the structure of the INS had to be strengthened and the institution's status changed from that of department of a ministry to that of Etablissement Public Administratif (EPA). The project is contracted to BCEOM with a permanent technical assistant managing a form of framework contract to recruit specific expertise according to needs. The permanent TA is an international expert.

Niger also benefits from the regional projects PARSTAT and DIAPER. After PARSTAT, the INS has taken over production of the harmonised consumer price index, along with the preparation of national accounts. Not much can be said on the long-term effects of DIAPER. International support from FAO and UNICEF for the CILSS has relieved DIAPER.

Main characteristics of these two bilateral projects:

Recensement général de la population et de l'habitat. 8 ACP NIR 26	Contracted: €814 895 Disbursed :€814 895	INS
Objectives: Support for collection and analysis of the General Population Census		
Renforcement des capacités du système statistique national pour le suivi de la pauvreté au Niger 9 ACP NIR 1	Contracted: €1 276 000 Disbursed: €423 863	INS
Objectives: improving institutional capacities in support to the Poverty Reduction Strategy implemented in Niger		

3.1.2 Mechanisms of Implementation

PARSTAT, DIAPER and ECOSTAT were regional projects implemented through an executive agency (UEMOA Commission for PARSTAT, CILSS for DIAPER and ECOWAS Secretariat for ECOSTAT). In addition, for some of the components of PARSTAT, AFRISTAT was “sub-delegated” by the UEMOA Commission as a “secondary executive agency”: as indicated in the final evaluation report on PARSTAT (December 2003), AFRISTAT provided most of the technical assistance for the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP; including all developments of the software CHAPO), implementation of the ERETES software for getting harmonised national accounts, and computation of “most comparable GDPs” or for surveys on informal sector. Equipment and access to international methodologies were also available as a result of the project. It has to be noted that sustainability and full achievement of the project were possible only because AFRISTAT funded the activities from its own resources or through other financial partners (World Bank, ADB, ACBF, French co-operation).

ECOSTAT could be analysed as an extension of PARSTAT to all ECOWAS countries. Because of the important role played by AFRISTAT in the implementation of activities within the framework of PARSTAT, the ECOWAS Secretariat requested AFRISTAT to intervene, but had to open a special budget based on its own resources as the European Commission considered for some reason that it was not possible to use AFRISTAT as a sub-contractor for this project.

The same situation existed for the project 8 ACP RCE 16 (statistical component of a budgetary assistance programme to CEMAC) in which the CEMAC Secretariat requested AFRISTAT to pay for identification missions within the framework of this EDF project although without any possibility of resorting to AFRISTAT European funds.

DIAPER's executive agency was the CILSS, which asked to one of its specialised branches, AGRHYMET located in Niamey, to implement it.

The national institutions benefiting from bilateral projects were not always the national statistical offices, in particular the most recent projects relating to budgetary support programmes (for instance the support for the Poverty Reduction Programmes in Mali where the beneficiary was the Poverty Reduction Co-ordination Cell). Such situations may create problems for statistical co-ordination.

3.1.3 Interaction with other donors or bilateral and multilateral organisations

In general, there is in West African countries good and efficient co-ordination between the main donors. An important number of projects funded by other donors have strong links with programmes funded by the Commission, for instance:

- The International Comparison Programme (ICP) launched by the African Development Bank, one component of which will have some links with renovation of the HICP.
- The French bilateral co-operation programme proposal for technical assistance before and after PARSTAT (before the completion of consumption surveys, the results of which were indispensable for a sound and solid computation of the HICP; or after the follow-up of the implementation of ERETES).
- Assistance of the UNDP to several countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, ...) for preparing the statistical tables and indicators included in the National Human Development Reports and the National Reports on Millenium Development Goals.
- Financial support of the UNDP in 2006 to prepare an updating of the Statistical Master Plan adopted in 2000 and to propose a National Programme for the Development of Statistics for the period 2006-2010.
- Major World Bank programme in Burkina Faso to help update the national strategy for development of statistics (SNDS), elaborated in 1994.
- Highly specific projects supported from time to time by other bilateral donors (CIDA, USAID, etc.).

3.2 Main achievements and issues

3.2.1 Main results

a) *PARSTAT*

Much important progress in terms of qualitative improvements to statistics and harmonisation of sub-regional standards has emanated from the PARSTAT. These improvements are a consequence of an excellent fit between the objectives of the main beneficiary, the UEMOA Commission, those of member countries, and the goals of PARSTAT.

The treaty that created the UEMOA, signed in Dakar on January 10, 1994, made it necessary to harmonise and improve economic statistics (HCPI – Harmonised Consumer Price Index; comparability of GDPs; external trade statistics) for monitoring and assessing economic policy (multilateral surveillance) and for ensuring the economic convergence of member countries. PARSTAT was necessary for formulating, implementing, monitoring and assessing the common policies of the Union. It permitted harmonisation of the activities necessary to fulfil these common policies. The UEMOA Commission's position was strengthened thanks to this project.

At the level of the member countries, PARSTAT contributed to increasing awareness of the importance of producing timely, credible and reliable statistics through the cells for national economic policy (CNPE – Cellules Nationales de Politique Economique) with the general participation of the national statistical offices. There was a global improvement in the quality of statistics produced through the project. Moreover the member countries' support for the project and its results was good.

The data produced are available on the UEMOA Commission and AFRISTAT Websites (www.uemoa.int and www.afristat.org), or through national or sub-regional publications. A new project within the 5-years programme PARI2 (Programme of Assistance to Regional Integration) will have a statistical component for rejuvenation of some tools (e.g. the HCPI) to improve the quality of external trade statistics and strengthen capacities for data analysis.

The seminars and training activities have also been unanimously appreciated. Moreover, PARSTAT made possible exchanges of experiences between UEMOA countries (and more generally between the Francophone countries of the sub-Saharan Africa) through meetings and seminars of organised by AFRISTAT (which moreover also covered some topics beyond those handled by PARSTAT). Furthermore some “South – South” co-operation has started under the supervision of AFRISTAT.

The collaboration between the UEMOA Commission and AFRISTAT, which at operational level is the strongest international organisation in statistics, played an important role in the success of the project.

Nevertheless, the sustainability of the results is far from ensured. The human and budgetary resources of the national statistical offices are still very weak. Despite the efforts of the UEMOA Commission and of AFRISTAT with the support of PARIS21 in their advocacy of the necessity of producing statistical data, the efforts made by the member countries for strengthening the institutional and organisational situation of national statistical offices are much less substantial. In particular, the mobility of the agents responsible for national accounts is still too great, which may explain the considerable delays and shortcomings in the production of these accounts.

PARSTAT has not permitted co-ordination of all statistical activities within the UEMOA Commission (each department has its own statistical cell). There was important stress on multilateral surveillance, which was prejudicial to other statistics such as those on agriculture. With a touch of optimism it can be said that PARSTAT paved the way to the more recent international initiatives such as the strategic programmes for poverty reduction or computation of the Millennium Development Indicators.

b) *DIAPER*

DIAPER was the first “regional” programme funded by the EC and was a response to a real demand expressed by the CILSS for monitoring and assessment of the Sahelian countries’ policies for ensuring food security.

DIAPER has created real capacities in the statistical services of the ministries of agriculture of the CILSS member countries for collecting, producing and disseminating data on food and agriculture. On the positive side, the following facts can be highlighted: use of sound and solid methodologies, strengthening of the capacities of agricultural statisticians, visibility of the agricultural statistical services, quality of data produced, production of indicators relevant to follow-up of the Millennium Development Objectives, and quality of national accounts (due to the fact that in all countries agricultural production represents a major percentage of GDP). Even if some data were not produced by DIAPER (production of fruits and vegetables, data on market-gardening enterprises, private stocks), the balance of achievements is impressive.

Even if the production of statistical data on food and agriculture will somewhat decrease after the end of the project and its volume and quality varies across the different countries, the general sustainability of the activities seems ensured. A new programme supported by FAO and the Dutch co-operation, PASISA (Plan d’Action pour un système d’information sur la sécurité alimentaire – Action Plan for an Information System on Food Security) will support DIAPER and contribute to maintaining its flow of results.

c) *ECOSTAT*

This project is aimed at developing the statistical activities of the ECOWAS. In some way it complements PARSTAT and has the same objectives as the latter (harmonised consumer price indices, national accounts, external trade statistics) and could have been analysed as an extension of PARSTAT to those ECOWAS member countries that are not UEMOA countries. The overlap between the two organisations sometimes makes real

implementation of the activities difficult. AFRISTAT, the operational arm of the UEMOA Commission for the implementation of PARSTAT and also the executive agency for the International Comparison Programme funded by the African Development Bank, is certainly in the best position to be in charge of the implementation of ECOSTAT and play a role in it. But this role is limited at present by some unclear limitations imposed by the EC, the result of which being the impossibility of AFRISTAT receiving European funds directly.

d) *National projects*

Some projects were “purely statistical projects” (in particular, in the two visited countries, support for population statistics). In these cases the project objectives are generally being reached. But most recent projects are not purely statistical projects: in budgetary support projects, or in projects for improving management of the social ministries (education, health, etc.), there are statistical components of greater or lesser importance. The situation is the same with projects supporting poverty reduction policies.

A positive aspect is an improvement in relations between users and producers of statistics and a better involvement of users in definition of the objectives of the statistical surveys, and of producers in the use made of the results they are producing within the project framework. But there are also significant risks with this kind of assistance. It may result in excessive scattering of statistical co-operation and exclusion of beneficiaries from definition and implementation of a statistical policy (adoption of a national strategy for strengthening statistical capacities). In all countries involved, statistical co-ordination is generally the weakest point in the national statistical system and is in big danger of not being addressed by assistance projects if the systemic aspects of the implementation of a statistical system are not considered as integral parts of a statistical project, even if it is immersed in a more general project.

No project funded by the Commission aimed at strengthening institutional capacities or helping NSIs fulfil their basic objective, that is production and analysis of current statistics. The stress put on policy support (with statistics as a part of a larger project) is certainly prejudicial to the production of the regular current statistics needed by all international and national users and to co-ordination of the national statistical system, which are among the most important challenges in developing countries.

Few countries have adopted a national strategy for the development of their statistical system and the legal and regulatory framework governing the status of the NSI and other statistical institutions. No Commission-funded project aimed at building such a national strategy or at studying the opportunities and risks associated with of one status *vis-à-vis* others. Moreover, in some cases (e.g. Niger), the Commission made adoption of a new status for the NSI a precondition for the implementation of a support project without any in-depth study.

3.2.2 The explanatory factors and main issues

The two most significant vectors for statistical co-operation in West Africa are:

- Regional projects like PARSTAT or DIAPER, the results of which have been globally positive (improvement of some current statistics such as the national accounts or consumer price indices; improvement of agricultural statistics; calculation of early warning indicators to improve the quality and reliability of food security data); the main reason for this success was undoubtedly progress in West African economic and monetary integration, and the existence of a strong central organisation for the Union, the UEMOA Commission which is able to interact with the European Commission Services in charge of statistical co-operation in such a way that project objectives are shared and correspond to the real needs of the beneficiaries at both sub-regional and national levels. By comparison with some other “sub-regions” benefiting from EC projects, such a conclusion seems very significant. One other reason for this success was the relative homogeneity of the statistical development of the concerned countries, which is not the case in other regions of the world. But these successes should not be allowed to conceal very severe problems and difficulties: sustainability of statistical production beyond the end of a project is far from being ensured, and there are also concerns about human as well as financial and equipment resources. Also the quality of the tools developed by regional institutions at community level depends very much on the capacities of their member countries to appropriate and maintain the tools, which no project guarantees at the moment.
- Projects linked with budgetary support, particularly in the “social” ministries, or projects supporting poverty reduction policies. As stated in paragraph 3.1., there are positive aspects of this kind of support; but there are also many significant risks associated with developing specific indicators adapted to the monitoring of specific policies without, at least in parallel, a more systemic approach including strengthening of the basic capacities of the NSIs to produce current statistics and carry out their daily missions. Production of current statistics, and of the data requested for the monitoring of the strategic framework for poverty reduction or other sectoral policies, should be the two facets of a single national strategy for statistical development, prepared and co-ordinated by the NSI.

Since its creation (strongly supported by the European Commission and in particular EUROSTAT) AFRISTAT had played an important role in helping the NSIs and other to improve their activities, define and identify the main challenges they had to face, and find solutions to meet them. This was achieved variously through harmonisation of concepts, methods and classifications; organisation of regular meetings, workshops and seminars; and promoting development of “South – South” co-operation. Collaboration between AFRISTAT and donors had therefore been very efficient, in particular with some multilateral institutions (World Bank, African Development Bank, ACBF, IMF through AFRITAC-West) or bilateral donors (French co-operation, DFID). Relations between AFRISTAT and the European Commission, in particular EUROSTAT, were affected by the EUROSTAT crisis in 2003. Previously, EUROSTAT had participated regularly in the AFRISTAT Steering Committee meetings as an observer. It did not attend the 2004 and

2005 meetings but returned in 2006. This temporary absence has been perceived by AFRISTAT as a lack of support to increase statistical capacity building in the region. However, EUROSTAT continued its technical cooperation throughout, attending in particular the 2005 workshop on provisional accounts organised by AFRISTAT and INSEE.

Finally, procedures for implementing activities were generally judged as unnecessarily complicated and much too time-consuming. The delays in putting credits at the disposal of the contractors are very long, which may cause breakdown. In particular, PARSTAT had a very complicated “governance” system which was often at the source of problems which, however, were solved with the support of bilateral donors (the French co-operation) or sometimes through the financial resources of AFRISTAT by which it was able to make advanced payments.

3.2.3 Synthesis of main achievements and issues

The analysis of the SPP interventions visited in West Africa can be summarised as follows:

	MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS	MAIN ISSUES
PARSTAT	<p><i>Due to</i> convergence of views between the main actors involved <i>plus</i> regional empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative improvements (timely, credible and reliable statistics). ▪ Harmonisation of sub-regional standards. <p><i>Through</i> seminars, training, effective co-operation between the UEMOA and AFRISTAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing exchange of experience. ▪ Start of south-south co-operation. 	<p><i>Due to</i> weak national advocacy <i>plus</i> weak human and budgetary resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delays and shortcomings in the production of national accounts. ▪ Sustainability of the results is far from being ensured. <p><i>Due to</i> important stress on multilateral surveillance with little focus on other statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Absence of co-ordination of all statistical activities within the UEMOA.

DIAPER	<p><i>Due to</i> improved capacity of the ministries of agriculture for collecting, producing and disseminating data on food and agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sound methodologies, ▪ Visibility of the agricultural statistical services, ▪ Quality of data produced, ▪ Production of indicators relevant for the follow-up of the MDGs, ▪ Quality of national accounts. 	<p><i>As</i> PASISA will take over from DIAPER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall sustainability of activities seems ensured.
ECOSTAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular production of important set of data ▪ Dissemination of data through web site ▪ Improvements in methodologies and collection of statistical information ▪ Increase coverage 	<p><i>Due to</i> weak co-ordination between ECOWAS and UEMOA <i>plus</i> constraints on this project because of unclear interpretation of EC rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some objectives are not reached.
National projects	<p><i>Due to</i> better co-operation between producers and users on the design and implementation of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better definition of the objectives of the statistical surveys. ▪ Improved use of the results by the producers. 	<p><i>Due to</i> the absence of project aimed to build a national strategy for statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statistical co-ordination is generally the weakest point of the national statistical system. ▪ There is potential for dispersing statistical co-operation and excluding the beneficiaries from definition and implementation of a statistical policy. <p><i>Because</i> no project funded by the Commission aimed at strengthening institutional capacities and helping NSIs to fulfil their basic mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weak production of the regular current statistics needed by all international and national users. ▪ Weak co-ordination of the national statistical system, which is one of the most important challenges in developing countries.

4. Synthesis of field visit Ukraine (Tacis)

4.1 The statistical programme

4.1.1 Statistical programmes/projects implemented in Ukraine

The support of the European Commission for development of statistical information in Ukraine has been conducted in the framework of the Tacis programme, the overall objective of which was to contribute to the process of economic and social transition of the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. The Tacis statistical programme was designed to accompany this reform in supporting the adaptation of the former statistical systems. They had to be transformed from collectors of information in support of the management of command economies into service institutions fulfilling the information needs of democratic societies and market economies. Furthermore the statistical systems had to be made compatible with international standards and classifications.

In this perspective the European Commission has been providing assistance in statistics to Ukraine since 1993. This support was framed by the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) signed between the European Communities and the Member States, and Ukraine that entered into force in 1998. The Agreement specifies, in its article 77, the long-term objectives to be achieved in the field of statistics by the co-operation between Ukraine and the EU, namely:

- The adaptation of Ukrainian statistical system to international standards, methods and classifications;
- The exchange of statistical information; and
- The provision of necessary statistical macro- and micro-economic information to implement and manage economic reforms.

This statistical assistance started with an inter-state programme (Statistics 1, 1993-1996) focusing on five major priority areas: business register, enterprise statistics, trade statistics, classifications and disseminations. It was driven mainly by common NIS priorities and technical assistance and training were provided for the staff of the National Statistical Offices (NSO).

Since 1996 nine annual regional (that is, at the level of the Tacis region) statistical programmes (called Statistics 2 to Statistics 10, the latter currently in preparation) focusing on selected priority domains, have been prepared by the Commission Services and proposed to their partners in the Tacis programme. The resources allocated to each of these regional programmes were distributed between the partner countries which included a statistical component in their annual Action Programmes. Under this system, statistical

interventions supported by the Commission have been responses to demands driven by national priorities and to needs expressed by the respective national statistical institutions within the pre-established priority domains of the overall "Statistics" programmes. Ukraine has benefited from Statistics 2 and 4 and is currently implementing Statistics 8 and programming Statistics 10.

Ukraine has not participated in all statistics programmes. This fact results from the time needed to complete activities under one programme before embarking on the next one and also from delays in starting implementation⁹. The following table indicates the implementation paths of the successive statistical programmes in Ukraine as well as their resources (in € million) and those allocated to the national Ukraine Action Programmes.

Implementation of "Statistics Programmes" in Ukraine

	<i>Ukraine Annual Action Programmes</i>											Resources of Ukraine statistical programmes			
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		2007	...	
<i>Statistical Programmes</i>															
Statistics 2	X														1.5
Statistics 3															
Statistics 4			X												1.0
Statistics 5															
Statistics 6															
Statistics 7															
Statistics 8							X								1.0
Statistics 9															
Statistics 10									X				?	?	1.0
															4.5
Ressources of Ukraine annual action programmes	38.0	44.0	44.0	46.0	48.0	48.0	47.0	50.0	70.0						435.0

Legend:

X

Year of inscription of statistical programme into Action Programme



Period pending implementation of statistical programme



Period of implementation of statistical programme

⁹ Until budget year 2002 included: the validity period for contracting and executing was 4 years starting at the signature of the Financing Agreement. Since budget year 2003: the rule has changed and the validity period of contracting is 3 years starting at signature of the Financing Agreement, whereas the validity period for execution is 3 years after signature of the contract..

The budget for Statistics 2 was €1.5 million for a period from 1996 to 1999. The domains covered were the following:

- Publication and public relations.
- Training Centre.
- Business Register.
- Statistical Classifications.
- Enterprise statistics (business statistics general, industry; internal trade, construction/investment; transport, agriculture).
- Macroeconomic statistics.
- Macroeconomic indicators for regions.
- Labour statistics: labour costs, employment/unemployment data.
- Migration.

Statistics 4 had a budget of €1 million for the initially envisaged period 1998-2001. The programme was effectively completed in 2003 and covered the following statistical domains:

- Classification.
- Business register.
- Industry statistics (construction, internal trade; services; agriculture).
- Macro-economic indicators (national accounts, regional statistics, non-observed economy).
- Social statistics (labour force statistics).
- Training centre.
- Business statistics.
- Publication of statistical information.

The period planned for Statistics 8 (€1 million) was 2002-2006 but because of delays for the identification of the contractor¹⁰, the implementation of the activities in each component identified in the TOR started only in January 2006. The programme, therefore, will have to be completed by the end of 2006 and the project's components are the following:

- A Global assessment of the National Statistical System.
- Regional statistics; Structural business statistics.
- Business register.
- Construction and investment statistics.
- Industrial services statistics.
- Price statistics.
- Non-financial services.
- Statistics on R&D and innovation.
- Environment statistics.
- National accounts.

¹⁰ Linked to the suppression of the CESD.

The budget of Statistics 10 (€1 million) was agreed in 2004 and the pre-information notice for potential contractors has been published.

Over the evaluation period the resources allocated to Ukraine for statistical projects amounted to €4.5 million for a cumulated total of €435 million allocated to the Action Programmes, that is about 1% of total resources.

4.1.2 Implementation mechanisms

Commission support to statistics took the form of successive framework contracts that shaped the technical assistance and identified a number of relevant support domains at the regional level. The national statistical offices had the possibility of drawing on the resources offered to support their own priorities.

The corollary of this demand-led approach was that the Commission did not offer its assistance for pursuing a well-defined strategic goal in the form of a specific country statistical programme that could be expressed in a logical framework. Rather it offered resources allowing the beneficiary to draw on a pool of technical resources and to incorporate itself into the network of European statistical institutions.

The budgets of the Tacis statistical programmes allocated to Ukraine are included in the Ukrainian National Action Programme (NAP) under the Small Project and Programmes facility. In practice, at the preparation stage of the National Action Programme, the State Statistical Committee of Ukraine (SSCU) sends its requests to the Tacis Co-ordination Unit via the Ministry of Economy identifying and justifying the statistical support required. Once the statistical budget is allocated in the National Action Programme, the SSCU identifies components of projects and their expected results. It formulates project proposals and activity descriptions with the support of the contractor and the advice of Eurostat. The strong involvement of the SSCU at this stage of the process allows good local ownership of the statistical development programme.

For Statistics 2 and 4, the implementation and management of the components were handled by CESD as contractor and by other sub-contractors, mainly the EU Member States' Statistical Offices. As from Statistics 8 the contractor is selected on the basis of a call for tender. A consortium led by GIP ADETEF has been awarded the contract and is currently implementing activities in several statistical domains identified in the TOR.

4.1.3 Interaction with other donors

The SSCU has benefited from substantial assistance from international donors since 1993. Statistical programmes were implemented in the early stage of the transition to a market economy. Since 2004 the assistance has been less intensive. The activities of the main donors have been as follows:

- The **IMF** provided multi-sector permanent statistical advisors to the SSCU between 1993 and 2001. They focused on the reform of money and banking statistics, balance of payments and national accounts. They also assisted SSCU staff with matters related to price statistics, data dissemination standards, statistical legislation and co-ordination

with other international donors. In January 2003 Ukraine joined the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS).

- The **OECD** provided technical assistance for the compilation of national accounts between 1993 and 2000. The main objective was the transfer of know-how to SSCU staff on the principles underlying the national accounts of a market economy (as opposed to the net material product computed in command economies), to support their implementation in practice, and to adopt the SNA methodology.
- **DFID** provided assistance under the "Know-How Fund" which started in 1998 but was only implemented in 2001. The main components of this programme were national accounts, censuses, social statistics, household budget surveys, labour market statistics, and geographical information system (GIS).
- The SSCU received technical assistance and financial assistance within the framework of **World Bank** loans to develop the whole statistical system between 1995 and 1998. The amount of this loan was \$8.6 million, mainly for equipment of the central office of the SSCU but also for external trade statistics, legislation issues and household budget surveys. A second loan of \$32 million was agreed in 2004 for reform of the Ukrainian statistical system and for provision of equipment for regional and local offices.
- The **ILO** designed the first labour force survey with the SSCU in 1994-95. It carried out projects to study child labour, informal trade in the labour market, and price statistics.
- The **SIDA** (Swedish International Development co-operation Agency) provided assistance between 1995 and 2001, alongside DFID, with the household budget survey, gender statistics, business standards survey (linked to the Tacis statistical programmes), energy statistics, education statistics and commercial activities (selling publications, etc.).

4.2 Main achievement and issues

4.2.1 Main achievements

Since 1993 the efforts of the SSCU to adapt the production of statistics have led to visible improvements. New methodologies conforming to international recommendations have been introduced in several statistical domains such as national accounts, price statistics, household surveys, poverty level measurement, labour statistics, business statistics, external trade statistics and population statistics. These methodologies have been published and made available to the users.

Statistical classifications and standards are increasingly consistent with international practices and European Union recommendations. For example, the adoption of the Nomenclature Type d'Activités Economiques (NACE) is now effective.

One of the other main achievements is the capacity to conduct sample surveys. Previously, only full-coverage surveys were carried out. The SSCU is now applying sample surveys in various statistical domains such as the labour market and household budget.

The indicators of these achievements include the fact that Ukraine has joined the SDDS of the IMF in 2003. Agreements on exchange of data with Eurostat, Russia and some other countries could be concluded. This initiative permitted assessment and improvement of comparability of data.

With the participation of Ukraine in the SDDS, the IMF statistical advisor was not deemed necessary any more, and many bilateral donors concluded that Ukraine had achieved a satisfactory and sustainable performance in the production of the main corpus of statistics. From 2004 international assistance with statistics was therefore considerably reduced.

The production of statistical data and its dissemination has considerably been improved with the existence of a website with regularly updated data, publication of methodologies used by the SSCU and the production of statistical bulletins and social and economic reports. The European Commission contributed to all these achievements through its Tacis statistical programmes but it is difficult to assess to what extent the positive achievements are attributable to the Commission's interventions. The overall objectives of the Statistics programmes "*building a statistical system serving the information needs of a democratic society and a market economy*" could not have been achieved with the limited resources provided in Statistics 2, 4 and 8 given the magnitude of the problems requiring a solution. The IMF's continued support to the SSCU in formulating and implementing its reform strategy has probably been a more determinant factor in the reform. Even so, it is acknowledged that the Commission programmes have provided influential inputs in a number of essential areas such as methodologies, sample surveys and classifications. Furthermore, their contribution in terms of transfer of know-how and of developing contacts and networks between Ukrainian and European statisticians is highly regarded.

As the SSCU was a strong and structured institution it could identify, thanks notably to the strategic guidance of the IMF, its main technical assistance needs. It had in-house technical skills and a capacity to absorb and co-ordinate international assistance from a variety of donors. With such preconditions the demand-led approach of the Commission, as opposed to a more directive *a priori* programming of interventions, allowed good ownership of the transfer of know-how and its sustainable introduction in the operations of the SSCU. The use of EU Member States' national statistical offices, some of which had already faced the experience of transition, as in Poland for example, proved an additional positive factor.

Statistics 2 and 4 focused on the improvement of technical tools in different branches of statistics rather than on the reform of the statistical system or of the organisational aspects of the collection of statistical data at country level. The internal organisation of the SSCU and the network of regional offices inherited from the Soviet era were left relatively unchanged and some data collection practices at local level and the system of transfer of the data to the central office remain ill-adapted to the development of a market economy involving a multiplicity of private operators.

Statistics 8 differs from the previous programmes in that respect. Its design is more goal-oriented with an underlying logframe approach with a view to making a greater impact on institutional transformation; it also places more emphasis on response to the needs of users, not only traditional government agencies but also economic actors and Civil Society. Statistics 10, now in preparation, will be more governance-oriented and will aim at favouring the adoption of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

4.2.2 Main issues

This overview of the support provided by the Commission to Ukraine in the field of statistics raises three types of issue.

1° Articulation between the objectives of the co-operation with Ukraine and the objectives of the statistical programmes implemented in Ukraine.

At programming level two relatively independent exercises are conducted:

- On the one hand, the statistical programme is designed at regional level and offered to the Tacis countries as a resource they can draw upon to benefit from technical support in the field of statistics, provided it fits within a range of pre-defined thematic priorities.
- On the other hand, the national Action Programme incorporates activities from the statistical programme.

It is unclear whether the regional statistical programme, and in particular the distribution of its resources between the Tacis countries, results from aggregation of the statistical components of the national strategies in the Action Programmes, or on the contrary is an exogenous variable automatically included in the Action Programmes. This absence of clarification precludes determination of the extent to which the statistical interventions are strategic and support the priority objectives of the co-operation with the EU.

The statistical programme has undoubtedly provided useful resources which have been adequately employed by the Ukrainian partner. Its small magnitude and absence of strategic orientations do not permit a conclusion on how far it achieved the priority goals of the co-operation with Ukraine. As the Statistics 8 and 10 programmes are more priority-oriented the issue of their articulation with the national Action Programme becomes more important. The convergence and complementarity of the objectives of the regional statistical programmes with those of the national Action Programmes needs to be clarified.

2° Delays in implementation

The implementation of all statistical programmes in Ukraine so far has been characterised by long delays (see table in section 2) that have reduced both the execution period of the programmes and the number of regional programmes from which Ukraine could benefit. Part of the explanation of this problem lies in the design of the programmes.

The activities in each component under a “statistics n” programme are not defined in the programming phase of the project but well into its implementation phase. Activities to be undertaken and supported are defined in collaboration with the contractor and Eurostat. The combination of the delays between financial agreement and contract and the time required to define the activities creates a long period at the end of which a subcontractor still has to be identified and contracted. Statistics 2 and 4 each experienced delays of at least one year and in Statistics 8 this was aggravated by the Eurostat crisis and the suppression of the CESD followed by a long procedure for selection of a contractor with the result that

the project will have only one year left for its entire execution. Procedures have been modified with effect from budget year 2003 but with the aim to making allowance for longer delays rather than reducing them.

3° Completion of the institutional reform of the statistical system.

The Tacis statistical programmes in Ukraine did not tackle institutional reform of the statistical system. First, only very limited action has been taken into account to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework so as to guarantee the independence of the SSCU and its mission as a service for the benefit of a democratic society and free market economy.

Second, the EC support had no impact on the general organisation and management of the statistical system. Its functioning is still similar to that in place under the Soviet Union. It is a centralised system with three levels: central, regional (*oblast*) and local (*rayon*). The local offices are responsible for data collection and initial data checking. The regional offices aggregate data received from the *rayons*, carry out logical check and do some analysis before disseminating the aggregated data and final results to the Central Office.

Third, the relationship between the SSCU and other empowered actors remains a key issue and the Commission support has not addressed this aspect. There is an effort on the SSCU side to transfer the statistical data to other institutions but it remains in a “black box” and no feedback is given to the SSCU; similarly data received by the SSCU from other institutions are also transferred in a black box without any possibility of assessing their quality and reliability.

5. Synthesis of field visit to Morocco and Egypt (MEDA)

5.1 The statistical programme

This section describes the Commission-supported statistical projects implemented in the Mediterranean region, and in particular in Morocco and Egypt.

The same regional programmes (MEDSTAT 1 and MEDSTAT 2) have been or are currently being implemented in all non-EU Mediterranean countries¹¹ and signatories of the Barcelona Declaration. This section is therefore organised as follows. A first subsection will explain the broad characteristics of the MEDSTAT 1 and 2 programmes that are common to all beneficiary countries; the second subsection will deal their implementation in Egypt and Morocco; the third subsection will explain the implementation mechanisms; and the fourth subsection will describe interaction with other donors.

5.1.1 The MEDSTAT 1 and 2 programmes

Medstat 1 was conducted over the period 1998-March 2003. The overall objective of the programme was to assist the national statistical institutes of the 12 non-EU signatories of the Barcelona Declaration so as to:

- Facilitate elaboration of national economic policies and plans, as well as their monitoring by the use of harmonised macro-economic data in the future perspective of a free-trade zone in 2015 grouping all EU and Mediterranean countries.
- Support regional integration.
- Promote swift and efficient exchange of comparable data, produced in line with international standards, both within the Mediterranean countries and between them and EU countries.

Medstat 1 was launched during a conference held in Valencia, Spain in December 1995, attended by the 12 beneficiary countries, 15 EU member countries and the 4 countries of the European Economic Area.

¹¹ Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, West Bank and Gaza + Cyprus and Malta that became EU members in 2004.

The following table gives the summary of the main components of the programme

Programme MEDSTAT 1		
MED-COMEXT (external trade)	€930 000	Contractor: CESD-Madrid
<p>Objectives: to harmonise and exchange external trade statistics between the EU and the Mediterranean partners as part of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.</p> <p>Statistical priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - initiate the harmonisation work with the Mediterranean partners; - exchange relevant data with them and start feeding a COMEXT-like "regional" database from the regional contribution; - make reconciliation work in the most advanced countries. 		
MED-COMEXT (Data processing System-Eurotrace)	€1 100 000	Contractor: CESD-Communautaire
<p>Objectives: to improve the quality and availability of the statistical data on external trade.</p> <p>Statistical priorities: to provide statistical institutions with the computer software EUROTRACE for production of statistical results on external trade.</p>		
MED-TRANS (Implementation)	€1 154 728	Contractor: CESD-Roma
MED-TRANS (Maritime Security)	€386 017	Contractor: CESD-Roma
MED-TRANS (transport-bridge)	€660 000	Contractor: CESD-Roma
<p>Objectives: to guarantee a continuation of the activities carried out in the 12 MED countries on transport statistics in order to promote completion of a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean statistical information system on transport; and to improve and consolidate the national transport information systems in the MED countries with focus on harmonisation; This project follows the three-year MED-Trans (1997-2000).</p> <p>Statistical priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to improve and consolidate national harmonised aviation and maritime statistics information systems in the MED countries; - to consolidate, harmonise and regularly update the MED-Trans database on transportation of passengers and goods, and to disseminate its results; - to promote the use of appropriate methodologies for surveys of carriage of goods by roads. 		
MED-TOUR (tourism)	€2 251 451	CESD-Madrid
<p>Objectives: to improve convergence in collected data and in methods used in the field of tourism; to exchange comparable statistical data.</p> <p>Statistical priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comparison of local statistical systems with EU standards; - inventory of unofficial sources in the countries and incorporation into the documentary information system; - analysis and adoption of EU methods; - elaboration of a publication on tourism in the Mediterranean area; - development of a Mediterranean information system on tourism and implementation of transmission procedures; - implementation of regular pilot surveys; - improving harmonisation and comparability of basic information. 		
MED-MIGR (migrations)	€1 178 680	CESD-Roma
<p>Objectives: to establish regular collection of harmonised information on migrations in the MED countries (NB: the ToR specify "the system should be organised at the Commission").</p> <p>Statistical priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to make an inventory and analysis of all existing sources of information on migration statistics in the MED, EU and EFTA countries and international organisations; - exchange and comparison of statistical data between countries. 		

MED-ENV (environment)	€2 335 842	Contractor: Plan Bleu
<p>Objectives: To improve the ability of the statistical services of the Mediterranean countries to collect, produce and publish comprehensive, reliable, timely and relevant environmental statistics needed for:</p> <p>a) Development and evaluation of national environmental policies;</p> <p>b) Regional integration and participation in international and global agreements in the field of environment;</p> <p>c) Improvement of comparability with EU and international standards and exchange of environmental data between Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>Statistical priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to adopt Eurostat and OECD standards for compiling national environmental statistics; - focus on 6 areas: water, use of soil, waste, air pollution, biodiversity, environmental indicators of sustainable development. 		
MED-NOE (Non-observed economy)	€751 277	CESD Roma
<p>Objectives: to contribute to ensure exhaustiveness and international comparability of GDP of MED countries in relation to the Non Observed Economy (NOE), and to improve labour market information system as regard to non regular labour force.</p> <p>Statistical priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity building of NSIs of MED countries to produce comparable data at the regional level on NOE and the non regular (first of all informal) labour market, particularly by improving the technical skills of medium and high-level staff. - adoption of harmonised conceptual framework and elaboration of guidelines for the analysis and measurement of NOE and of the labour market components according to international standards (SNA93, ILO); - analysis, harmonisation and dissemination of data on NOE and on the non regular labour market for the Medstat Region. 		
MED-NA (National accounts)	€1 547 458	CESD-Communautaire
<p>Objectives: to enhance the harmonisation of national accounts in the MED countries with the EU standards; to produce and exchange comparable macro-economic aggregates between the MED partners and the EU; to disseminate national accounts on annual basis and to exchange them with the EU.</p> <p>Statistical priorities: adoption of the SNA 93, implementation according to UN recommendations and elaboration of national accounts using SNA 93 classifications.</p>		
MED-TRAINING (Training)	€1 418 046	CESD- Paris
<p>Objectives: to strengthen the national statistical systems of the Mediterranean countries signatory of the Barcelona Agreement.</p> <p>Statistical priorities: to provide general training in statistics to staff of partner organisations, and to support the respective competences and existing structures in the Med countries.</p>		
MED-IS (Information System)	€2 000 000	CESD-Communautaire
<p>Objectives: to consolidate Statistical Information Systems of the MEDA countries and to promote data exchanges between MEDA countries and between MEDA countries and EU</p> <p>Statistical priorities: to input data into the Eurostat database New Cronos</p>		

Medstat 2, with a total budget of €30 million, started at the beginning of 2006 to consolidate and deepen the achievements of Medstat 1. Under Medstat 2 two types of activities are contracted out: horizontal (co-ordination, information systems and training) and vertical (sector activities). Medstat 2 widens the statistical domains covered to include agriculture and social statistics and places more emphasis on analysis and exploitation of data. To improve the synergy between the different components, there are only two contractors, one for horizontal activities (€10 million), and another one for sector activities (€10 million). The remaining €10 million will be used for providing equipment and will be disbursed through specific call for tenders.

5.1.2 Statistical programmes/projects implemented in the region

a) *Regional programme/projects*

It should be noted that whereas the project documents (work programmes, monitoring reports, mid-term external evaluation) more or less permit a broad picture of what has been done in the region under the different MEDSTAT 1 components, they do not contain the information that would allow drawing of accurate maps of activities conducted in that country or of the resources (human and financial) allocated to them. This is because the programme is managed and implemented regionally for each component and there is no regrouping of all activities and resources by country.

In principle, all sub-components of the MEDSTAT 1 programme have been implemented in all countries but with varying intensity and taking account of local specificities.

b) *Bilateral projects*

During the period of this evaluation there has been no bilateral Commission statistical project or programme in the region with one exception¹² (Palestinian Authority – project MED/1999/005-794 – Capacity Building for the Palestinian Statistical system). This state of affairs is likely to change in the near future insofar as the Delegation is currently considering launching twinning projects under which one or several statisticians from an EU national statistical institution would be seconded to provide hands-on transfer of professional know-how.

c) *Statistical programmes/projects implemented in Egypt*

In Egypt the project has been implemented in the CAPMAS, the only official statistical authority, and under each component the focus has been on:

- Reaching harmonisation of definitions, classifications, nomenclatures and data with other MEDA countries and the EU, and exchanging comparable data.
- Better equipping of the concerned statistical departments in CAPMAS.
- Strengthening professional capacity in the concerned departments.

The following paragraphs give a brief account of the activities under each component.

External Trade (MED-COMEXT, including Data Processing System)

The implementation of EUROTRACE faced many difficulties. After it was initially planned to implement EUROTRACE Unix, this decision was reconsidered after a pre-installation visit by the contractors concluded that the EUROTRACE-DOS platform would be the most appropriate solution for handling external trade data that were not computerised at all. The system was eventually installed in 2002 and training was provided.

¹² There was also a short term project in Lebanon for preparing a long term statistical programme and a strategy of development of the Lebanese statistical system, but this project did not appear in the list of statistical projects 1995-2005 prepared by the EC.

According to the contractors' final report, CAPMAS cancelled further follow-up missions and abandoned the package. It is worth noting that during the interviews held by the current evaluation mission there were no convergent views among the staff from the external trade department of CAPMAS as to whether EUROTRACE had been implemented and was effectively being used for the computation of external trade data.

In general, external trade data are considered within CAPMAS and by users as presenting major problems in terms of quality and timely availability. The major issue is the lack of automation of customs data and poor communications between CAPMAS and Customs. Transmission of data is done in paper format and by carriers, involving delays and losses of documents. The quality of data (mirror data, conformity with international standards) and their availability did not significantly improve over the period of MEDSTAT 1 and although staff recognise that some useful training and equipment was provided, overall the results of the programme in this area are difficult to perceive. Some progress in the adoption of harmonised classification (HS06) is observed. Relations with Customs remain difficult but are said to be improving, partly as a result of efforts conducted under the MEDSTAT 1 programme. Management and processing of Customs data, a topic not addressed by MEDSTAT 1, are crucial for the improvement of trade statistics.

Environment

Environment is the area where the MEDSTAT 1 project has been most successful in Egypt. It helped create the department of statistical environment within CAPMAS. It provided equipment, guidance on the organisation and staffing of the department, and methodologies and training. It focused on three categories of environmental data:

- Water.
- Waste.
- Air pollution.

The environmental statistics department is generally not collecting primary data but compiling data from other organisations and line ministries, such as the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry). Co-ordination with these sources of information has been established and functions satisfactorily.

Currently the environmental statistics department has the capacity, but not the resources, to produce and disseminate environmental statistics. A 2006 statistical report on the environmental situation in Egypt is complete but has not been published owing to lack of funding and adequate administrative authorisation. Some environmental data are published in the statistical yearbook and the brochure "Egypt in figures" (e.g. data on quality of the Nile Water, CO₂ Emissions).

Whereas the environment department of CAPMAS has significantly benefited from MEDSTAT 1, and would probably still not exist without that programme, many problems remain unresolved:

- Sustainability of production and above all dissemination of environmental data is very fragile.

- The ECHEMS environment database has been installed to serve as a basis for the exchange of comparable data across the region but is not yet in use.
- Insufficient knowledge of foreign languages and non-existence of methodological material in Arabic are obstacles to access by staff to the corpus of knowledge in this statistical field.
- Computation of indicators of sustainable development remains beyond the current capacity of the department.

Transport

As in other countries, while it does not *a priori* exclude any form of transport, the MED-Trans project has been focused on maritime and air transport. There is not much evidence of concrete implementation of MED-Trans in Egypt. The main reason seems to be difficulties with inter-institution relations. The mid-term evaluation of MEDSTAT 1 indicated that the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation Authority were not aware of MEDSTAT 1. Major problems occurred because of the relationship with the Directorate General for Maritime Transport which refused to provide CAPMAS's electronic files with data on movements in the main ports unless against payment. One major benefit of MEDSTAT 1, according to staff of CAPMAS's General Department for Trade and Transport Statistics, is that it helped resolve that problem so that at the start of MEDSTAT 2 reasonable institutional co-operation had been established in the sector. Air transport apart, data definitions generally differ from those recognised internationally and therefore do not permit international comparisons.

Migrations

It is also difficult to trace the impact of MEDSTAT 1 in this area. According to CAPMAS staff, the focus of the migration component in Egypt was on three problems:

- Exploitation of residence and work permits.
- Exploitation of border cards.
- Development of a migration module for the coming census.

The first two points have been dealt with by the Ministry of Interior. On the third point a module has been designed to capture better information on Egyptians living abroad on a short-term basis (called also temporary migrants in CAPMAS). It was not clear what MEDSTAT 1 had contributed to this point.

There is strong interest in the measurement of immigration and emigration as the economic and social impacts are important for Egypt. Migration is by definition an international phenomenon and harmonisation of definitions is therefore important for comparing data and assessing its consistency. Definitions of temporary and permanent migration used by CAPMAS and Egyptian agencies are specific and differ from international recommendations. Under MEDSTAT 1, according to CAPMAS staff, no consensus could be reached between the member countries on adoption of harmonised definitions.

Tourism

The contribution of MEDSTAT 1 to this sector in Egypt was limited. CAPMAS did not participate in the MED-Tour task force. The main source of data on tourism is the Ministry of Tourism and tourism statistics are compiled in co-operation between CAPMAS and that ministry. Apart from a meeting and a workshop no activities were conducted in Egypt.

National Accounts

National Accounts are compiled by the Egyptian National Accounts Department under the Ministry of Planning (recently transformed into the Ministry of Economic Development). Considerable work has been done over recent years to improve the national accounts and to adopt the international SNA93 norms. This was mainly supported by USAID, working directly with the Ministry of Planning. Contribution of MEDSTAT to that component in Egypt has been negligible, probably as a result of division of labour with USAID.

The implementation of the MEDSTAT 2 programme started in the first half of 2006. In Egypt the first task was the elaboration of a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the situation of statistics in Egypt¹³. This work is still in progress and is meant to serve as a basis for the orientation of the project in Egypt¹⁴. The approach adopted is an analysis of the general legal and institutional framework for statistics in Egypt; it assesses the statistical capacity and infrastructure, the information system, training and human resources and thematic statistics. Compared to the approach under MEDSTAT 1 the scope is broader in the sense that it is not limited to CAPMAS but considers all the providers of statistical information and all sources of primary data as well as their institutional links. The preparation of this report has been the occasion for extended consultations with other information compilers and users and already this exercise seems to have been received extremely positively and to have paved the ground for better understanding and ownership than under the previous programme.

d) Statistical programmes/projects implemented in Morocco

In Morocco the programme has been implemented in the 'Direction de la Statistique' which is under the supervision of the planning authority (Haut Commissariat du Plan). The statistical units of the line ministries were not partners in the programme, included for its MED-TRAINING component.

As in Egypt, the focus has been on reaching harmonisation of the definitions, classifications, nomenclatures and data with other MEDA countries and EU Member States, and exchanging comparable data; better equipped of the concerned statistical departments in the 'Direction de la Statistique'; and strengthening of the professional capacity in the concerned departments.

¹³ Euromed: *Arab Republic of Egypt Country Statistical Situation Report (Draft)*, 30th August 2006, 68 p.

¹⁴ Euromed: *Arab Republic of Egypt. Project Orientation Report (Draft)*, 30th August 2006, 16 p.

The following paragraphs give a brief account of the activities under each component.

External Trade (MED-COMEXT)

The implementation of EUROTRACE faced many difficulties. In Morocco, data are produced by the 'Office des Changes' which is located in Casablanca and is part of the Ministry of Finance. This Office is also in charge of the balance of payments; it has a division for external exchanges with two sections: external trade statistics; studies and balance of payments. It has its own Web site: www.oc.gov.ma.

Morocco's opinion is that EUROTRACE is not adapted to its situation because of a large diversity of goods and services. Using this software is complicated and time-consuming. The implementation of successive releases was difficult because the counterparts in Eurostat and CESD were changing too often. Eurostat refused to share the source software with the Office, which would have certainly made implementation easier. The Office therefore continued to use its own internal tools.

A request from the Office aimed at creating links with other Mediterranean countries or EU member countries so as to analyse gaps and discrepancies in export-import data was unsuccessful. A twinning project with the Office is under preparation, but it seems that the 'Direction de la Statistique' and Customs have not been involved in the preparations for this twinning.

Environment

As in Egypt, environment is the area where MEDSTAT 1 has been most successful. It helped create the environmental statistics unit within the 'Direction de la Statistique' and provided equipment, guidance on organisation and staffing of the department, methodologies and training. Continuity was ensured thanks to the contractor of this component, the 'Plan Bleu', that was able to continue with implementation of the project after its interruption in 2003.

Currently the environmental statistics unit has the capacity to produce and disseminate environmental statistics, but has a problem of limited human and budgetary resources. An interest in environmental statistics existed in Morocco before the implementation of MEDSTAT 1, but the project has permitted better coverage and production of indicators of sustainable development. It has also permitted building of a better structure for the collection and dissemination of environmental data and creation of a National Committee for Environmental Statistics that includes all actors (statisticians, data producers, analysts, decision-makers, etc.).

A twinning project on environmental issues is under preparation with the Ministry of Environment, but the 'Direction de la Statistique' has not been involved in its preparation.

Transport

As in other countries, while it does not *a priori* exclude any form of transport, MED-TRANS has focused on maritime and air transport. Morocco expressed a strong wish to add road transport (which represents 75% of goods transported in Morocco) and also rail which is important in this country, but that request was refused. It seems that better coverage will exist with MEDSTAT 2. One positive result was creation of a sub-regional working group between the three countries of the Maghreb region.

The reorganisation of the Office of Harbours in Casablanca and the interruption of MEDSTAT 1 in 2003 jeopardized some results of the project. It would be necessary to increase equipment levels (at the moment there is only 1 computer for the 25 persons working in the unit) as well as the budgetary resources needed to organise the collection of new data through surveys. There is a twinning project on maritime security but the 'Direction de la Statistique' was not informed about this project.

Morocco was dissatisfied with the quality of the expertise provided by the contractor for this component.

Migrations

As in Egypt, the focus of the migration component was set on the exploitation of residence and work permits, and exploitation of border cards.

The most important problem, measurement of South-North migrations, was not addressed by MED-MIGR. The migration component of MEDSTAT 2 entails measurement of financial flows to Morocco from immigrants in EU countries.

The project has permitted promotion of good co-operation between national institutions in charge of this issue, namely the "Direction de la Statistique", and the Ministry of Tourism and the National Security authorities. No final assessment of this component was made. Medstat 1 has not produced any agreement between the Mediterranean countries on adoption of harmonised definitions.

Tourism

The contribution of MEDSTAT 1 to this sector in Morocco did not meet all expectations. The activities launched during the implementation period (survey on tourists' expenses, satellite account) would anyway have been launched, even without the existence of Medstat 1 which, however, nevertheless established solid links between the 'Direction de la Statistique', the Ministry of Tourism and the National Security authorities (see above under Migrations), thanks to some co-ordination between the two projects MED-MIGR and MED-TOUR, although only by the end of the project which made it impossible to take full account of this synergy.

National Accounts and Non-Observed Economy

The 'Direction de la Comptabilité Nationale' is a department directly located under the supervision of the 'Commissariat du Plan' and is independent of the 'Direction de la Statistique'. During the first meetings of the task-forces, it was decided to create the component MED-NOE in strict liaison with the component MED-NA. A contribution from MEDSTAT 1 to this sector was not essential. Indeed, as soon as Morocco had decided to adopt the SNA93 in 1997, all the activities necessary for the migration of the Morocco national accounts to the SNA93 (structural surveys on firms, survey on households expenses and living standards, survey on employment extended to the rural sector, 1-2-3 survey on the informal sector, survey on investments in public sector) were funded from the national budget. Important additional staff were recruited (today there are 40 university-level staff members in the NA department).

MEDSTAT 1 has nevertheless permitted strengthening of capacities through the training sessions and workshops organised throughout the implementation of the project. It has also improved data storage, exchanges of experience between MEDA countries, and knowledge of the informal sector.

Training

Training organised through this component is 'horizontal' (surveys methods, general software) and does not concern training specific to the activities of other components. At the beginning of the component, Eurostat was proposing that the MEDA countries participate in the training programme organised in Luxembourg (TES) for the EU Member States and candidate countries. During the first meetings of the task force, MEDA countries protested and succeeded in having their specific needs better taken into account (tailor made training, training courses in Arabic, training of Arabophone trainers), but the principle of having the same training programme for all countries of the region, notwithstanding the considerable differences between them, has been maintained.

The training courses were often too theoretical and not practically-oriented, which was not very useful in the specific case of Morocco where most staff are alumni of the prestigious INSEA (Institut National de la Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée). Participants were nevertheless generally satisfied but it is impossible to measure the real effects on capacities.

Only the staff members of the 'Direction de la Statistique' were allowed to participate in the programme despite the fact that the training could also be interesting for statisticians working in line ministries. No course was organised on some important topics such as dissemination or management of statistical offices.

Information systems

The component MED-IS aimed at implementing a common database in all MEDA countries to promote data dissemination and favour data exchange both between these countries and also between MEDA and EU countries.

In fact, no specific tool was created but the countries were instead invited to feed the Eurostat database New Cronos (with access to this database as a consequence of their participation). But after the interruption to MEDSTAT 1, access to New Cronos was no longer possible for the MEDA countries.

MED-IS had nevertheless increased Moroccan awareness of the importance of data dissemination and permitted the creation of a unit in charge of databases within the 'Direction de la Statistique'.

5.1.3 Mechanisms of implementation

MEDSTAT 1 & 2 are regional programmes. The principle is that all components are implemented in the same way in all countries.

In Egypt CAPMAS, because of the 1964 presidential decree that made it the only official statistical authority, was the main beneficiary of MEDSTAT 1. In Morocco, for similar reasons, the 'Direction de la Statistique' was the main beneficiary. There was within CAPMAS and the Moroccan 'Direction de la Statistique' one co-ordinator for each component¹⁵, who participated in the component's Task Force. In addition there was an overall co-ordinator in CAPMAS but not in the 'Direction de la Statistique' of Morocco, which certainly contributed to excessive partition of the project (it was not compulsory to appoint this overall co-ordinator, in contrast with MEDSTAT 2).

The thematic task forces are composed of 4 to 6 experts both from EU and MEDA countries, the contractor and, when feasible, representatives from Eurostat. They meet two or three times a year to analyse the main needs in each country relative to regional harmonisation of statistics in the thematic field concerned by the task force, and to agree on how the components priorities would be implemented in each countries. As a consequence, countries were not represented in all task forces, which will not be the case for MEDSTAT 2.

Interventions in the form of provision of equipment, training, provision of guidelines (often in the form of CD) and information on methods and classification was organised by the contractor.

The dominant opinion of the CAPMAS and the Moroccan 'Direction de la Statistique' staff interviewed during the two country missions was that of a certain frustration with the assistance provided. Equipment was, not surprisingly, highly appreciated and generally regarded as adequate, well adapted and accompanied by sufficient instructions. Problems seem to have occurred with the acquisition to local firms that have delayed the availability and increased the effective costs.

The provision of technical assistance and training is regarded as extremely beneficial and of good quality. However, it was generally viewed as insufficiently tailored to local needs. In particular, it was too punctual, too short and not sufficiently targeted to the people or

¹⁵ With the exception of the NA and Tourism within CAPMAS.

institutions who really needed it. For instance, it was regretted that no long term on-the-job training was provided to some departments (external trade statistics and transport statistics in particular) of CAPMAS and the 'Direction de la Statistique' and that customs staff could not be involved in training and workshops on external trade statistics.

5.1.4 Interaction with other donors or bilateral and multilateral partners

Apart from the Commission support provided through MEDSTAT 1 and 2, there have been no notable statistical interventions by bilateral donors:

- In Egypt major assistance was provided by USAID, over a period of about five years, to the Ministry of Planning to improve the national accounts; USAID also provided some technical assistance to Jordan.
- In Morocco the French Co-operation assists the 'Direction de la Comptabilité Nationale' in implementation and use of ERETES and the 'Direction de la Statistique' in implementation of the 1-2-3 survey on the informal sector; there was also some bilateral French co-operation in Tunisia, Algeria and Lebanon (national accounts).

In Egypt and Morocco, the TA allowed these two countries to meet the requirements of the IMF SDDS and to subscribe to this standard¹⁶. Since 2005 this goal has been achieved and Egypt now participates in the SDDS.

The EC did not seek complementarities between the activities implemented under the umbrella of MEDSTAT 1 and the programmes of other multilateral organisations (Poverty Reduction Strategic Papers, Millennium Indicators, etc.).

5.2 Main achievement and issues

5.2.1 Main results

Overall progress in terms of qualitative improvements to statistics and harmonisation with regional and EU standards has been mixed and is difficult to attribute to MEDSTAT 1 interventions.

On the positive side, the following can be highlighted:

- Creation of departments of environmental statistics within the CAPMAS and the 'Direction de la Statistique' of Morocco: the production and compilation of such statistics is clearly a major result of MEDSTAT 1. These departments did not previously exist and the programme helped with the design of the organisation, the definition of its functions, the training of its human resources and its equipment.

¹⁶ In the region, Israel and Tunisia have also subscribed to SDDS when Lebanon subscribed to the less prescriptive GDDS.

- Important progress has been made in Egypt and in Morocco with elaboration and dissemination of the national accounts. This, however, was realised mainly with the support of USAID in Egypt and of the French co-operation in Morocco, and with only marginal contributions from MEDSTAT 1.
- Some improvements in the degree of harmonisation of some statistics (environment, air transport, maritime transport, adoption of international recommendations in a number of areas, etc.).
- Some improvements in data exchange: all countries provided data (in particular, external trade statistics) to the Eurostat database New Cronos and they use Cronos to access other Mediterranean countries' data. In the case of Egypt, external trade data are also transferred monthly to the COMESA regional centre for the compilation of COMESA trade data¹⁷.
- Dissemination to the public and availability of data have improved without however being clearly linked to MEDSTAT 1; even so, it is certain that MEDSTAT raised awareness in this respect.
- The training programme has also been unanimously appreciated despite its limitations mentioned in the preceding chapter (too theoretical, specific needs of the countries not taken into account, at least at the beginning of the project).
- MEDSTAT 1 made exchanges of experience possible between MEDA countries, either through meetings of task forces or on the occasion of meetings of MEDSTAT Steering Committees). Some "South – South" co-operation has started.

These positive results are derived not only from opinions collected during interviews but are also based on the following factual evidence:

- The inclusion of environmental statistics in publications; preparation of a statistical report on the environment.
- Four countries were able to join SDDS and a fifth GDDS.
- Adoption of international classifications and standards for important statistics: HS6 2002 for merchandise trade, SNA93 for the national accounts.
- Considerable effort of CAPMAS in Egypt and the 'Direction de la Statistique' in Morocco over the last years to improve their image and promotion of statistical information: creation of a website, publication policy, development of an information centre and of an Intranet at the level of the whole country.

However, in a number of areas supported by the MEDSTAT 1 programme, progress is negligible or mixed:

- External trade data remain a major problem in both countries. Delays of availability have not been reduced over the period, the reliability and the quality of the data remains extremely poor, to a point at which several important users reported that they

¹⁷ The point was confirmed by both the statistical department of the COMESA and the Central Statistical Office of Zambia.

stopped using them (mirror data exhibiting discrepancies in excess of 20%, difficult comparison with other countries' data, unreliable quantities). The problems stem from the management and processing of the primary sources (customs data) which are not automated. Moreover, in the case of Egypt, transfer of data from the Customs department to the CAPMAS is still done in paper format with the aid of carriers, with reported delays and losses occurring during the physical handling of the immense quantity of forms involved in the process.

- In Egypt, there has been little or no progress in transport statistics due to the blockage of the relationship between CAPMAS and the maritime department.
- Also in Egypt, in the field of tourism the data published by CAPMAS are notoriously inadequate, as acknowledged by representatives of the institutions themselves, but no progress could be achieved in this regard under MEDSTAT 1 owing to insufficient combined involvement of CAPMAS and the Ministry of Tourism in the corresponding component of the programme.
- In the area of migrations there was little activity in either Egypt or Morocco under MEDSTAT 1 and the programme was of no help in achieving the desired objective of unified definitions at regional level.

These results, or their absence, are evidenced by:

- The unchanged situation in respect of delays of production of foreign trade data; there has been no significant improvement in quality (mirror data).
- Some progress in transport due to a recent arrangement in Egypt with the Ministry of Marine.
- No progress at CAPMAS on tourism statistics and no project activity.
- No clear development as far as migrations are concerned.
- The most important progress within the scope of MEDSTAT 1 activities were realised in domains (e.g. national accounts) where the intervention of MEDSTAT 1 was not always decisive.

5.2.2 The explanatory factors and main issues

People interviewed in both statistical offices as well as in EC Delegations and other institutions, as well as users of statistics, did not perceive significant progress under MEDSTAT 1. Three sets of factors contributed to this situation.

a) *Factors linked to the design of MEDSTAT 1*

- Under MEDSTAT 1 interventions within a given country were not managed as "monitorable projects": there was no logframe defining objectives to be achieved during the life of the project, and no identification of the results expected for a given volume of resources. Separate components of the statistical systems received support within the context of generic sub-programmes defined at regional level. The result is that there was no clear link between the resources allocated either to a country or to

each component of the “country programme” and the objectives to be achieved. The resources and objectives were *de facto* monitored at another level and this fact reduced the incentive for the beneficiary to feel responsible for progress whereas the contractors were more sensitive to the progress of the programme as a whole than to that of individual national components.

- The programme was designed as a regional project with the same activities in each partner country, whatever its level of statistical attainment, without taking country differences into consideration. In the case of Egypt, according to staff, more training and longer term TA would have been necessary to build the capacity needed to achieve all the activities, whereas in other countries, more advanced in the area of statistics, these activities would have been implemented even without the project. This is the case of Morocco where a large percentage of the achievements could have been met without MEDSTAT.
- The programme has been very much concentrated on harmonization and alignment on European practice; it was not tailored to the specific situation of the beneficiary countries, neither did it take account of the important differences between the political, economic and cultural situations of the countries. The components were identified collectively by the directors of the national institutes of statistics of EU and MEDA countries as those prescribed by the Barcelona Conference. In Egypt, this does not seem to have been a major problem because the objectives were shared by the Egyptian authorities. Indeed, according to CAPMAS staff interviewed, they corresponded to the national priorities in the field of statistics. However, it is probable that if the project had aimed at the improvement of priority needs in statistics its focus would have been elsewhere (for example: automation of customs data, unemployment statistics, price index) as user opinions confirm. In Morocco, in contrast, priority would have been accorded to the Poverty Reduction Strategic Papers and to the Millennium Indicators.
- More generally, no component of MEDSTAT 1 addressed national strategies for the development of statistics or institutional and organisational issues, although the latter are important factors governing the development of statistical systems in developing countries.

b) Factors linked to the implementation of MEDSTAT 1

- Procedures for implementing activities were generally judged as unnecessarily complicated and much too time-consuming. The delays in putting credits at the disposal of the contractors were very long, with an attendant risk of interruptions.
- The sharp interruption to the project in 2003 and the rapid dismantlement of the network of experts resulted in very difficult consequences for the MEDA countries. In particular, the software recommended by the project was not maintained and updated after the interruption.
- The delay in the launching of MEDSTAT 2 (in January 2006) was too long and is difficult to comprehend when the decision to launch MEDSTAT 2 was taken in 2001 and its budget was adopted in 2003.
- Morocco has noted that some difficulties encountered during the implementation of MEDSTAT 1 seem to have been overcome with MEDSTAT 2 (awareness of the

specificities of the different partner countries in their statistical development, inclusion of social and poverty reduction statistics, better co-ordination of the different components, etc.).

c) *Institutional factors*

- MEDSTAT 1 is the only regional project funded by the Commission which has no regional institutional counterpart to negotiate the programming of activities on behalf of its member countries, as is the case for UEMOA, ECOWAS, SADC, Mercosur, Andean Community, and others¹⁸. Most of the difficulties noted in the preparation and implementation of MEDSTAT 1 were probably due to that absence of a unique interlocutor. The Arab League has not demonstrated any significant interest in statistics. One person interviewed proposed to create a “Mediterranean Statistical Institute” which would be a light structure on the model of AFRISTAT in Western and Central Africa and which could play a role in regional statistical integration.
- In the specific case of training programmes, it would have been desirable to take into account the already existing organisations such as the “Statistical Training and Research Arab Institute” in Amman that MED-TRAINING, in the event, ignored. On a smaller scale, there was no link with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (created by the Arab League and which produces external trade data on agricultural products).
- Improving statistics is not just a matter of technical advice but is strongly linked to public administration reform. This aspect was overlooked in the MEDSTAT 1 approach. It concentrated exclusively on the central statistical offices (CAPMAS in Egypt and the ‘Direction de la Statistique’ in Morocco) with no action either on the statistical system as a whole or on the organisation and managerial capacity of these statistical institutions. It is striking to observe that the areas where the absence of results is most apparent are precisely those where such difficulties were encountered: external trade, transport, tourism. On the contrary, success proved achievable in areas where such problems were less of a constraint. Environment is such an example: there was no institutional history and a new department could be created with organisational advice from the project, and easy relationships could be established with the data providers. It is encouraging that the initial phase of MEDSTAT 2 devoted an extensive analysis, conducted and shared with the beneficiaries, to the local statistical situation in partner countries, including institutional aspects.
- Implementation of MEDSTAT in Egypt offers a good example of this. Whereas generally the quality of training and guidance material is considered to have been very good, institutional difficulties were a major impediment to the development of the full potential of the project. They were of two types, within CAPMAS and within the statistical system as a whole:
 - Within CAPMAS, organisational limitations were severe: an overstuffed institution with a limited group of qualified human resources and an abundance low paid,

¹⁸ TACIS Statistics is also in principle a “regional programme” without a very strong regional institution (the Statistical Secretariate of the CIS is a very weak structure), but de facto TACIS Statistics is a collection of national programmes under the same financial facility.

low productivity staff; plus logistical and communication constraints (few telephone lines available to the services, little development of electronic exchange of information in-house or with the external world).

- Relations and the degree of co-operation between CAPMAS and other institutions, whether sources of information or users, often proved unsatisfactory. The reasons are to be found in competition between different organisations, a reluctance to provide data without payment from CAPMAS, and a lack of confidence in CAPMAS that encouraged providers of primary data to process them themselves rather than sharing them with CAPMAS, for fear that would not be properly used.

6. Synthesis of meeting with directors of statistical schools (COMSTAT)

6.1 The statistical programme

This section presents the COMSTAT project supported by the Commission and more specifically its implementation in the three statistical schools existing in the Francophone countries of Sub-Saharan Africa:

- ENEA – Ecole Nationale d’Economie Appliquée, Département Statistique et Démographie, Dakar.
- ENSEA – Ecole Nationale de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée, Abidjan.
- ISSEA – Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée, Yaoundé.

COMSTAT also covered statistical schools and training centres in Lusophone countries, statistical training in the Caribbean and Pacific regions as well as at the existing training centre in Munich under the guidance of Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft. A synthesised description of COMSTAT may be presented as follows:

COMSTAT	
Title :	Support to statistical training for ACP countries
Country/Region, Accounting Nr	7 ACP RPR 308 + 8 ACP TPS 91 + 8 ACP TPS 155 + 8 ACP TPS 39
Start and end dates:	a) 7 ACP RPR 308 : 1993 – 2001 b) 8 ACP TPS 91 : 2000 - 2002 c) 8 ACP TPS 155 : 2003 – 2008 d) 8 ACP TPS 39 : 1999 – 2004
Budget committed (€)	a) 10 583 000 b) 1 960 000 c) 1 950 000 d) 1 080 000
Budget disbursed (€)	a) 9 355 917 b) 1 527 562 c) 929 266 d) 875 000
Beneficiaries	- All ACP countries, and more specifically, training schools and centres at University level. - Statistical schools in Francophone countries: ENEA/DSD : département de statistique et démographie de l’Ecole Nationale d’Economie Appliquée de Dakar ; ENSEA : Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée d’Abidjan ; ISSEA : Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée de Yaoundé - ISEGI : Institut Supérieur de Statistique, de Géographie et d’Informatique de Lisbonne - Training Centre in Munich (Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft) - Seminars for the CARICOM (Caribbean countries) - Seminars for the countries of the South Pacific Commission in Nouméa (Pacific region)
Implementing agency :	CESD – Communautaire

Its overall objectives are the training (initial and long-life) of statisticians to produce regularly reliable and updated statistics for monitoring economic policies. Its specific objectives are to increase the number of professional statisticians where needed by the countries' civil service, to strengthen the pedagogical courses, to complete the transfer of training centres to Africa (lusophone countries), and ensure the sustainability of the training system.

The specific activities within the framework of COMSTAT were:

- In ENEA, ENSEA and ISSEA:
 - Support to renewing and developing pedagogical programmes.
 - Preparation and implementation of pedagogical tools.
 - Organisation of pilot operations.
 - Development of practical courses, in particular on sampling surveys.
 - Co-ordination between schools.
 - Follow up of professional careers.
 - Attribution of scholarships to selected students.
- In other ACP countries:
 - Support to CESD-Lisbon for the organisation of a common competition for the schools in the PALOP countries and transfer to Africa of courses and seminars organised in Lisbon and Munich.
 - Organisation of regional workshops (Caribbean and Pacific).

Organising specific statistical training and teaching for Francophone African countries started in 1962, with the creation in Paris of the CESD (Centre Européen de formation de Statisticiens pour les pays en Développement), besides the ENSAE (Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique), the prestigious school of statistics existing in the premises of INSEE, and recruitment of developing country students (essentially in Africa) through a competitive examination. The students recruited by the CESD followed most of the courses of ENSAE and underwent specific courses (e.g. on development economics). There were two levels of diploma as in ENSAE: Ingénieurs Statisticiens Economistes (ISE) with two options for the entrance examination (mathematics, and economics) and 3-year courses; and Cadres de Gestion Statistique, or Ingénieurs des Travaux Statistiques (ITS), with 2-year courses. As indicated by its name, CESD was mainly funded by the EC.

In 1990, CESD in Paris took the name of CESD-Paris because of the creation of other CESDs in Lisbon, Madrid and Rome and of the 'CESD-Communautaire' in Luxembourg. Only the CESD-Lisbon was a teaching establishment, located besides the ISEGI on the CESD-Paris model. CESD-Madrid organised vocational training for statisticians working in Latin America and CESD-Rome organised seminars and workshops mainly for the Balkan and Mediterranean countries.

In the mid-1980s it was decided to transfer to Africa (Abidjan, Kigali and Yaoundé) the ITS training and, by the end of the 1980s, that of ISE. In 1992 there were no longer any students in CESD-Paris. This policy of "Africanisation" was a success.

6.1.1 COMSTAT implementation in the three francophone schools

Sources: Meeting with directors, Evaluation report made by the CESD-Communautaire in 2000.

The main output of COMSTAT was the funding of scholarships for the student laureates of the competition (during its active period, COMSTAT funded 27 scholarships every year, i.e. 9 per school) and support for the organisation of the entrance examination (which is the same for the three schools).

There was a Steering Committee (Comité de Pilotage Comstat) that grouped Eurostat, the three statistical schools and other providers of statistical training: the CESD network (Munich Training Centre, CESD-Lisbon, CESD-Paris) and CESD-Communautaire. This network proved very valuable for the schools which benefited from sharing of wider experience.

At the moment, the current CODESA (Comité de Co-ordination des Ecoles de Statistique Africaines) is more restricted: the three schools + French Co-operation + AFRISTAT. Overall COMSTAT facilitated strengthening of regional integration and an output of high quality statisticians, none of whom is unemployed.

a) *DSD/ENEA – Dakar*

The origin of the EC support to the Department of Statistics and Demography of the ENEA (DSD/ENEA) was the termination of the Statistical School of Kigali (IAMSEA) in 1994 because of the Rwandan genocide: ENEA received funds from the EC to take on and welcome students from IAMSEA that was in no position to re-open in September 1994.

There are three departments in ENEA, one being the Department of Statistics and Demography (DSD). In this context, ENEA (mainly the DSD but also the whole school as such for the funding of overheads) benefited from straight EC support for equipment and payment of teachers. The EC support brought about a change in the recruitment of students and in the curriculum that was lengthened from three to four years.

DSD provides higher education leading to the diplomas of Ingénieur des Travaux Statistiques (ITS) and Ingénieur Statisticien Economiste (ISE). Before 1994 the department mainly recruited Senegalese students, but also students from some other countries in the region, mainly Sahel countries. With the starting of EC support, recruitment took place yearly and the number of students increased (about 60), the number of permanent staff increased in parallel (now 3 full time, 2 part time), and regional diversification widened (in 2006, 66 students from West Africa to Madagascar).

Recently (2005) the Senegalese authorities considered that the training was not matching the needs of the statistical system and decided to upgrade DSD into an autonomous statistical school within the newly created “Agence Nationale de la Statistique”, adding the functions of education to those of collection, production and dissemination of statistics. Co-ordination, involving the triangle EC-France-ENEA, worked well until the unannounced suppression of scholarships by the EC (see infra).

COMSTAT provided support for DSD-ENEA quite apart from the funding of scholarships: pedagogical support (renewing of programmes), evaluation of courses, modernisation and re-organisation of the informatics network, edition and printing of textbooks, organisation of professional study periods, training of teachers.

b) ENSEA – Abidjan

The EC has long supported ENSEA. The school was created in 1961 to train “ingénieurs d’application”. The students benefited from scholarships from various sources (UNDP, and EDF). By the end of the 1980s it was decided to transfer to African schools all teaching previously organised in Paris by the CESD-Paris (in collaboration with the French Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l’Administration Economique – ENSAE – where the future staff of INSEE are trained). This transfer took place in two steps: (1) around 1985, transfer to Abidjan of the training courses for the “Ingénieurs des Travaux Statistiques” (ITS), and then (2) in 1990, transfer of the training courses for the “Ingénieurs Statisticiens Economistes” (ISE); after 1992 there was no longer any training of African students in the CESD-Paris. There are at present around 250 students attending courses at ENSEA. From 1993 COMSTAT channelled the EC support, which helped to extend its geographical coverage, including countries outside West Africa (Mauritania, Comoros, and even one student from Haiti).

COMSTAT provided support for ENSEA apart from the funding of scholarships: pedagogical support (renewing of programmes), evaluation of courses, funding of African professors from outside the Côte-d’Ivoire (to strengthen the “multi-nationality” of the school), re-organisation and modernisation of the library, edition and printing of textbooks, organisation of professional study periods, training and updating of the knowledge of teachers.

c) ISSEA - Yaoundé

In 1984 ISSEA replaced the Institut de la Statistique, de la Planification et de l’Economie Appliquée (ISPEA) which was a national school in Cameroon, when UDEAC (now the CEMAC) took over the national school. ISSEA provides now three types of course:

- Technicien supérieur de la statistique (Bac + 2 years).
- Ingénieur d’Application Statistique (Bac + 4, corresponds to ITS of ENEA and ENSEA).
- 3e cycle: Ingénieur Statisticien Economiste (Bac + 6 or 7).

ISSEA has 186 students from 12 nationalities (numbers of students have increased by 27% compared to 2004) and has 9 permanent staff + several “enseignants vacataires”.

COMSTAT only funded scholarships. No specific assistance was provided to ISSEA apart from that.

6.1.2 Other activities funded by COMSTAT

- Support by the CESD-Communautaire to the Munich Training Centre.
- Support to the organisation in PALOP for the entrance examination at ISEGI – Lisbon.
- Survey on the professional curricula of alumni.
- Pedagogical co-ordination of schools and training centres.
- Financial audit of schools and support to their management.
- Organisation of seminars and workshops.
- Organisation of a few seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

6.1.3 Interaction with other donors or bilateral and multilateral organisations

During the implementation of COMSTAT there was excellent and efficient co-ordination between the project and the French bilateral co-operation.

The ADB recently took the initiative of organising relations between the Francophone statistical schools and Anglophone training centres (for instance, the East African Statistical Training Centre in Dar-es-Salaam). The ADB also supports publication of the *'African Journal of Statistics'* that could be a link between the two linguistic worlds in Africa.

6.2 Main issues

6.2.1 History of COMSTAT and evolution of the EC vision about this type of project

The succession of different projects [COMSTAT, Bridge, Ext, Ext 2 projects] was not discussed with the beneficiaries and they had to adapt to the changing situation with lack of information and no possibility of anticipation. The worst example concerns the ending of the funding of scholarships. In 2004, the "*Comission d'Attribution des Bourses*" (Committee for the awarding of scholarships), chaired by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (French co-operation) was expecting that the Commission would fund as usual 27 scholarships for the academic year 2004-2005 since that was indicated by the on-going project, the bridging programme which announced provision of scholarships for three years and had already paid for two. Therefore, after the results of the entrance examination, this committee awarded the scholarships with due consideration for the criteria imposed by the Commission (preference for women etc). A letter was sent to the Commission and an answer was only received in August (academic year starting in September) explaining that there would no longer be scholarships (it seems, although it remains unclear, that the reason was that the budget was no longer available) and that a letter announcing this had been sent to the Delegations (but no timely information had been given either to the statistical schools or to the French partner, or to the CESD-Paris in charge of the practical organisation of the recruitment competition). In a situation of extreme urgency the French Co-operation and CESD-PARIS had to fund 25 scholarships for one year and thereby avoid embarrassment for the successful applicants. The fact that the Commission was

revisiting its policy on COMSTAT had been announced but the absence of any consultation with the partners was ill-received.

France may also consider revisiting its approach to these strategic changes in the very near future. A possible explanation for the change is that the support has been uncontrolled and provided in the absence of any specific requirement that the students benefiting from scholarships should work for the statistical institutions or even the public sector. With the exception of Cameroon very few students have been employed in the statistical offices. It is therefore important that Governments provide budgetary resources permitting improvements in the staffing of the statistical institutions and ensuring that the higher education system is tailored to the needs of the country. Budget support permits them to do so, therefore donor funding of scholarships for statisticians should be questioned. On the EC side the approach is now to promote Edulink, a call for proposals in support of higher education institutions operating in regional groupings and establishing links which allow rationalisation of higher education in the context of the region. Governments need to provide scholarships to allow students to attend the courses of these improved institutions.

6.2.2 Other issues

a) *Identification of activities*

The only real identification mission was made in Dakar in 1994 after the collapse of IAMSEA in Kigali following the genocide in Rwanda. It was indeed necessary to react rapidly to the disruption to this school in Kigali. In general there was no real analysis of needs. From the beneficiaries' point of view it was more information than consultation. Changes in EC aid policy are noted by the beneficiaries but are not previously discussed with them. The new project EDULINK proposed to African universities and schools at university level is typically an EC programme designed without any input from these establishments.

There is also a blatant lack of communication. For instance, when the CESD crisis occurred all payments were blocked for three months without any information being given to the schools which were in no way part of the problem that provoked this suspension.

b) *Capacity strengthening*

Overall COMSTAT provided highly qualified people but this did not contribute to strengthening the statistical systems. An anecdote illustrates the case very well: many years ago diplomas delivered to graduates by statistical schools were not handed out by the schools which instead addressed the diplomas to the national statistical institutes of the countries of origin of the students who were then duly required to collect them; in the course of time the directors of the NSOs, in despair because, although they were handing out diplomas to very good candidates, they could not afford to recruit them due to lack of resources, they asked the schools to hand out the diplomas themselves.

The foregoing notwithstanding, no graduate from the statistical schools is unemployed. A very large majority of the graduated students (85% according to the director of ENSEA) are doing a job involving statistics in the public or private sectors (in particular in banks or insurances companies). Moreover a number of alumni of these schools are continuing their studies, for example successfully taking doctorates in Europe or North Americas. One conclusion is that while the schools function well and provide well qualified people, strengthening of the national statistical systems is another matter altogether. One problem in the years to come could be that the new current approach to statistical support, in the context of Budget Aid, may be moving away from, not towards, an ideal situation.

c) The role of the CESD network

Over the years an informal network was created with several components:

- The ‘CESD network’ composed of the CESD-Communautaire and “national” CESDs plus the Munich training centre.
- The three Francophone African statistical schools.
- The GENES, depending on INSEE in Paris (Groupe des Ecoles d’Economie et de Statistique) and composed of ENSAE, ENSAI (Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l’Analyse de l’Information) which replaced the 2nd division of ENSAE, the CREST (Research Centre in Economy and Statistics) and one vocational training centre.

Such a network was important and useful. The dissolution of the CESD-Communautaire after the Eurostat crisis in 2003 resulted in the destruction of this network, a result which amounted to an “overshoot” in comparison with the problem requiring resolution.

Currently, the French co-operation programme is promoting a new network, the RIFOSSA (Réseau d’Institutions pour la Formation Supérieure en Statistiques en Afrique) with the GENES, the three African schools and Afristat. But one consequence of this development is marginalisation of Eurostat.

d) What future for statistical schools?

Despite their success, the financial sustainability of the schools is far from ensured, at least for the DSD/ENEA and the ISSEA. The situation is different with ENSEA which is showing real signs of increased efficiency and maturity, despite the difficult situation in Côte-d’Ivoire. Even if the scholarships that play a major role for students in developing countries are now incorporated in Budget Aid programmes, for instance at the level of UEMOA, such funding is very fragile and may jeopardize all the efforts made up to now.