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Modernisation of Official Statistics

In a digital and information driven society, official statistics is an increasingly precious public good that has to respond to the needs of many different users. To accomplish their official mandate, Statistical Organisations need to strive for adapt to major developments in society and the economy; they have to stay relevant becoming modern.

They have to produce increasingly high-quality statistics with higher timeliness and greater detail, competing with several parties while trying, at the same time, to deal with reduced resources. They have also to speed statistical production and make it more effective by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by new technologies and using new data sources: intensive exploitation of administrative records, big data and geospatial data. Statistical Organisations have to become more flexible and agile, increasing efficiency of production processes to free up resources for new developments.

How should they proceed to implement this vision? What are the key areas of strategic innovation? The assumption is that modernisation can mean different things to different people, depending on their starting point. The level of maturity can vary across organisations and across domains. At the national level, Statistical Organisations may create their own institutional strategy, in line with their capacity to change priorities, requirements and despite the constraints deriving from national laws.

This issue briefly examine these questions, starting from the challenges the official statistics community is facing and those that can be expected for the next future. Focus is also on the approach to statistical modernisation of a country as Tunisia, the beneficiary of the EU Twinning project "Modernisation de l'appareil statistique tunisien" that Istat is currently implementing in partnership with Insee as leader.

A part from the starting point, implementing modernisation may have significant implications for the internal structures and a

major impact on strategic decisions related to corporate strategy, budget and human resources. Crucial decisions refer to how to translate the strategy into the necessary organisational changes and deliver new capabilities, intended as a combination of organisation, people, processes, methodology, standard and technologies to attain the best performance levels in their core activities.

In taking such decisions and steps towards modernisation, Statistical Organisations benefit from information sharing and networking at the international level: they can identify relevant risk factors, pitfalls and best practices learning from those that are ahead of them and therefore more rapidly evolve. In this prospective should be seen the setup of mechanisms, mainly at EU and international level, for statistical capacity building initiatives aimed at providing technical assistance and training to support the effort of countries wishing to redesign their production processes.

However, international collaboration is so much more than that: it has been realised that changing tailor-made production processes and products can be too expensive for individual organisations. Working together, sharing and developing practical common solutions and infrastructures can give the opportunity to reduce costs and allow stronger investment in particular areas of work. Moreover, this strategy could be useful for countries as well as for emerging economies, giving them the possibility to connect and be part of the wider information society.

International organisations, particularly EUROSTAT and the UN Economic Commission for Europe - through the High Level Group on Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) - are at work to explore new roles and models of practical collaboration at the European and global level. Assuming that in a constantly evolving environment individual organisations should move from product-based towards process-oriented models, international organisations are promoting the development



and use of common methods and tools (GAMSO, GSBPM, GSIM, CSPA), with a view to build a common architecture based on principles of standardisation and interoperability, reuse and domain-independent standard processes. Since modernisation also means organisational changes, particular emphasis is also on common questions related to organisational frameworks and the evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of innovation projects.

Istat is fully involved in this process of enlargement of worldwide statistical modernisation community. It is currently participating in the implementation of the medium-term transformation programme of the European Statistical System (Vision2020) and is an active member of the HLG-MOS.

This international activity is one of the relevant factors that triggered internal actions leading to its large-scale Modernisation Programme recently started.

The main lessons learned and the most important issues emerged so far from Istat's experience, that can be shared with other countries facing the same challenges, build on the following pillars:

First, identifying a Business Architecture model - i.e. an integrated model representing processes, activities (including strategic organisational tasks and capabilities) and common and shared

infrastructures - is a way to introduce process innovation based on agreed corporate principles (in our strategy, design of production processes through a system of registers and centralisation of corporate support services) and ensure the elimination of domain-specific silos.

Second, from the operational point of view, experience has shown that promoting innovation through agile and horizontal internal networks and public-private partnerships drives corporate energy for change and builds innovation samples that are critical facilitators for the strategy.

Third, a sound governance is essential to steer an innovation strategy based on sound project management frameworks. However, achieving modernisation requires not only clear political commitment from top management, but also buy-in on vision from middle-management and consensus on modernisation targets from staff. Good management and a change-driven culture are factors related to people: human capital is in fact the core ingredient in innovation and creating a sustainable support for the transformation agenda needs to invest in people and their training.

Communicating modernisation to internal and external stakeholders is particularly important in this context, to demonstrate the benefits of change and build momentum for political support and corporate consensus for the change strategy.



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Modernization at works: innovation in statistical production processes

Official statistics organizations are increasingly focusing on innovation and transformation programs around the world. Although modernization strategies at national level may differ in terms of the detailed plans and specific priorities, they have in general common drivers and share similar goals.

Let's first focus on the key drivers: what are the triggers for transformation programs in official statistics? There are at least 5 factors:

- ▶ tight resource envelope;
- ▶ increasing pressure for more timely and fit for purpose information;
- ▶ new demands for statistics in areas where related to priority policies;
- ▶ the so called data revolution;
- ▶ the government digital revolution.

Public budgets are under pressure. In many countries, this led to cuts in official statistics budgets or curtailed investment programs, limiting the ability of statistical organization to maintain their work program keeping in place the traditional processes and technologies. The limits on resources make it a priority to identify ways to ensure that statistical production processes become more efficient: in other words trying to achieve more (statistical products) with less (resources).

While some efficiency gains can be achieved by reviewing the existing processes with a view to reducing time to production and limit the burden on respondents, more fundamental changes in the way statistical production processes are designed and managed is needed if more substantial savings have to be achieved. In other words, statistical organizations are struggling around the world to come up with good solutions to the question of changing the "production function" of official statistics without compromising their quality. In addition to resource constraints, statistical organizations are also under increasing pressure from users. The pace at which information is circulated and processed in today's world is such that users request increasingly more timely information for their decisions. Also the demand for more detailed information (eg at disaggregated territorial level to enable policy decisions with local impact) is growing at a rapid speed and users expect statistical products that are more tailored to their needs rather than general multipurpose statistics, as in the past. While statisticians have invested a lot in the past to reduce time to dissemination for their products and to improve the quality and reliability of statistical information at more disaggregated levels, further improvements in these directions are limited by the increasing costs of larger size sample surveys and the respondents burden associated to them.

Not only are users demanding faster statistical information, they also want to have indicators helpful for policy design, monitoring and impact assessment. This includes areas that have not been traditionally considered by official statistics such as well being, sustainability and development, global production network. Other areas where the demand for statistics

is on the rise is the measurement of people and companies trust, social capital and networks and their values for economic and social systems resilience, sustainability and exposure to shocks. Measuring these new concepts requires efforts by the statistical community in terms of conceptual frameworks, measurement issues and data sourcing. An example of one of the areas where the demand for new information system is globally acknowledged is the Sustainable Development Goals targeted by the United Nations development strategy, which pose important measurement challenges.

While demand side factors put pressure on statistical organizations to rapidly move to more efficient production systems, increasing their agility and responsiveness to new demands, exogenous changes create big windows of opportunities. The rapid developments in technologies have led to a digital revolution of everyone's life. Directly or indirectly the digital traces left behind by individuals using modern technology are a potential source of information. Large amounts of data are produced on an ongoing basis by individuals in their interactions through the devices they use. Smart phones, computers, smart meters, sensors and appliances are increasingly interconnected and exchange flows of large volume unstructured data. Can these big data also be used for statistical production? Initial experiments aimed at transforming these data into statistical information point to a great potential for the use of new sources in the production of statistics. However they also show the technical, organizational, legal and methodological challenges that would need to be dealt with.

At the same time, statistical organizations are increasingly realizing that are not anymore alone in the business of producing statistics. The availability of a large volume of data and the possible use of algorithms to process them in real time, lowers the barrier to produce statistics and broadens the range of potential providers of these information. This puts a potential competitive pressure on official statistics and points to the need to harness the new data sources and technologies on the one hand, while ensuring that quality of statistical information remains a key priority.

Finally, statistical organizations do not operate in a vacuum. They are generally part of governments which face increasing pressure from the resource side and the users to develop better services for citizens. Digital technologies have been seen by many governments around the world as a way to achieve efficiency savings and redeploy resources towards better and more tailored digital services. This is exacted to better deliver government support and care to citizens. The move towards e-government and service interoperability makes statistical organizations a central player in government strategies for the digital agenda, in particular as a consequence of the sheer volume of data processed and the high

degree of integration with other government departments.

Against this background, what are the key directions modernization programs are taking around the globe to reap the benefits of technological progress and better respond to user needs through more efficient processes?

It is not easy to draw a unique picture of the innovation agendas, because national priorities are differentiated to reflect uneven maturity in governments, different demand characteristics, size and composition of the resource envelope, and ultimately the degree of ambition and risk appetite. Notwithstanding these differences, there are important similarities that can be observed if one were to look at the national and international statistical organizations' transformation agendas. These are either embedded in strategic plans, such as the European Statistical System Vision 2020 and its implementation project portfolio, or in the organization medium-term and annual work programs.

and needs evolving and changing at a more rapid pace than in the past.

Also the capability to respond to needs through adequately designed statistical products can be limited by resource availability, skills mismatch and the length of the statistical production transformation: a legacy of the traditional stovepipe production model, where each statistical product is associated to a dedicated and specialized production line. This hampers the possibilities to exploit the benefits of economies and scale, reuse of data and IT systems across processes and limits the possibility to integrate data to enrich the information set for statistical production.

Another key direction in the official statistics transformation agenda is the smart utilization of multiple sources, including new nontraditional data sources such as big data. Statistical organizations increasingly rely on administrative data and their reuse for statistical purposes to dramatically cut response burden cost and limit financial expenses. Data integration, either across administrative data



There are at least 5 areas of common strategic innovation that can be identified. A useful way to look at them is to consider different phases of the statistical production process from design to dissemination.

- ▶ design of statistics
- ▶ data sourcing
- ▶ data processing
- ▶ statistical information dissemination
- ▶ quality controls.

The design of statistical products is increasingly linked to user needs. Statistical organizations listen more to their stakeholders than in the past. One could say even more, that the ultimate trend is to put the users in the "driver's seat". Statisticians have developed new tools to identify the satisfaction of their users with the information they get and have increasingly adopted systems to feed them back into the design of new products. This is to match the gaps between the provision of statistics and the information needs. From users satisfaction surveys, to digital tools to in depth stakeholders consultation events, the demand of information plays an important role in decisions about what statistics to produce. However, real time demand assessment is increasingly challenging with users becoming more differentiated

or through matching of these archives with sample surveys results, is increasingly seen as a key innovation to produce fit for purpose statistics of high quality, while minimizing costs. Exploiting non structured data sources, such as big data, provides an additional opportunity which many statistical organization are trying to harness through small and large scale pilots, frequently in partnership with other organizations, academia and private sector to leverage scarce skills in the area of data science.

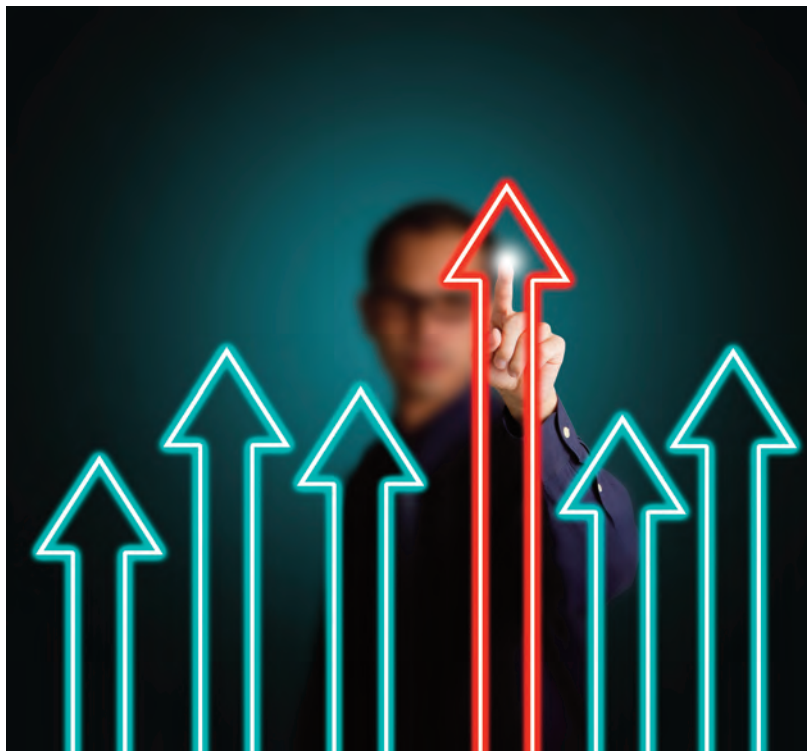
These developments are not without difficulties. Accessing administrative data can still be difficult from a technical, legal and organizational perspective in many countries. Using the data effectively for statistical production requires systems to track data quality across the production process and sound methodologies to combine different data sources for the production of quality statistics, consistent with agreed definitions and conceptual frameworks. Capabilities, including human resource skills, may not always be available in house or even in the country to make good use of the new technological opportunities. Increasingly, statistical organizations are dealing with these issues collaboratively as in the case of the High Level Group for Modernization of Statistical Production which groups international statistical

organizations under the UN Economic Commission for Europe, including Eurostat, and several innovation oriented national statistical institutes .

Innovation in data processing is a key element in the transformation agenda. As data processing is the engine of the statistical production, modernization actions aim to streamline the way the data processing is carried out. The critical trend is towards more automation through an industrial redesign of the production process. From the methodological point of view, this is leading to the use of a broader range of tools to produce statistical variables and indicators. These range from design based estimators to model based approaches, aimed at processing integrated data sets, and increasingly move towards algorithm based estimation methods when big data sources are also processed. While the general trend is common across different organizations, it is also important to stress that changes are happening gradually and in some case slowly. This brings the risk that innovation may not proceed fast enough to keep track with the challenges discussed above. At the same time, innovation would need to be introduced, while at the same time continuing to operate the production system for the routine work: a key strategic challenge

by automatic systems. Story telling has replaced the cold and flat tables of figures with the aim of adding value to data through graphics, visual analytics and metadata to release information to is closer to users interests. While progress is evident just visiting statistical organizations websites around the world, much more would need to be done to move from the dissemination of statistical products to the delivery of information services tailored to users needs and with full interactive characteristics so to allow a personalized "tour" of statistical information.

Quality remains an overarching key principle underpinning the value of official statistics. It differentiates these statistical from just "any kind of data that can be easily processed" through low cost IT systems, that merely collect and put together figures. It is, in the end, a crucial intangible asset that brings value added to the pure activity of data processing and makes official statistics a fundamental public good for societies, by allowing accountability and transparency: ultimately this is a key pillar of democracy. In the era of the digital revolution, quality of statistical processes and products has to adjust to include new modalities of producing and processing data and new ways of disseminating and consuming them. Most innovation strategies by statistical



organizations are grounded on solid quality frameworks and quality assurance processes. These, however, will be increasingly put under stress by the emergence of new questions associated to the way statistical production is changing: what is the quality of statistics produced through new sources? What is the quality reliability of model based and algorithm based statistics? How to measure the quality of new and innovative statistics disseminated through new data consumption tools? These are open questions the official statistics community will continue to be confronted with over the next years.

for senior managers in statistical organizations over the next years.

Statistical dissemination is an area where innovation is more visible and changes are more rapid. Until a few years ago, the key dissemination tools for statistics were paper based yearbooks containing tables full of figures. Nowadays, most statistical dissemination products are digital and paperless. They include websites, dashboards, mobile applications and infographics and continue to adjust rapidly to users demands and emergence of new devices on which statistical information can be visualized. Open data dissemination is also increasingly widespread, to reach more users with statistics by releasing the data in formats that can be easily reused and disseminated

In sum, official statistics in undergoing a rapid transformation process triggered by several internal and external drivers. While innovation agendas differ from country to country, important common factors can be identified, which lead to the need to develop stronger partnerships and cooperation initiatives to work together and to deal with pressing challenges. Learning opportunities exist, as some organizations are more mature in this process and increasingly willing and able to share their lessons with the others. As partnerships inside the statistical community are also extended to the public sector, the research community and the private sector and new methods of work are experienced (eg hackathons, agile projects, networks), the potential for growing collectively as a system increases dramatically: leveraging this is opportunity is the strategic challenge of the future.



interview with Hedi Saidi



Hedi Saidi
President, Statistics Tunisia



Rethinking official statistics to better serve development

by
Tiziana Pellicciotti

In an increasingly global context, official statistics is entering a period of transformation to keep the pace with the fast changes societies are experiencing and with the growing information demands. This means big challenges and big opportunities at the same time. Which are for Statistics Tunisia the key needs and drivers for change to achieving a more responsive, efficient and high-quality statistical system?

Statistical information represents an essential source for the design, monitoring and assessment of development strategies and policies, as well as an essential tool to support good policy-making. Statistics are also an important basis important to conduct strategic studies in a number of different domains. To this purpose, the national statistical system has undergone in recent years a deep transformation that has helped the development of the statistical infrastructure in the country, notably through:

- ▶ the setup of a solid legislative framework governing the statistical activity: enactment of the Statistical Law of 1999;
- ▶ reinforcement of the coordination mechanisms among different actors and stakeholders within the system, with the establishment of a National Statistical Council and the consolidation of the NSI as the main technical coordination within the system,
- ▶ the improvement of methodologies and techniques in line with international standards in statistics,
- ▶ strengthening the function of dissemination of statistics according to relevant international standards and norms,
- ▶ the establishment of statistical training institutions for engineers, technicians and qualified staff.

The design and implementation of such measures has allowed to provide a wide range of statistical information to meet development needs in several sectors: demography, employment and households living conditions, economic and environmental indicators.

To keep the pace with the fast development of economic and social changes from the one side, and to respond to needs expressed by economic and social actors and users from the other side, the work in official statistics in Tunisia will focus on the following key elements:

- ▶ Building up a statistical system fully responding to development requirements;
- ▶ Provide a wide range of statistical information on different sectors and domains, and to all different levels of decision-making;
- ▶ Produce and disseminate of high-quality statistics
- ▶ Integrate the national statistical system within the international system and community
- ▶ Upgrade of the public statistical authorities (Structures Statistiques Publiques) et promote statistical culture and literacy.

And which are the main difficulties you expect to encounter during the process?

The National Institute of Statistics has developed and improved considerably its technical capacities in data collection and data processing, thus fostering the consolidation of statistical production in several sectors, including demographic data, data on labour market, on household consumption and living conditions, poverty measurement. Significant progresses have been made in national accounts compilation and monitoring of economic situation and trends in given economic sectors, as well as in the production of short-term economic indicators (CPI, IPI, ISPI etc).

Still, the analysis and assessment carried out on the functioning of INS, based on a number of documents and reports, has identified and highlighted some shortcomings and weaknesses liable to give rise to difficulties in meeting the challenges and providing users with high quality data. They may be summed up as follows:

From the legal standpoint:

The Statistical Law of 1999 that governs the statistical activities in the country needs a revision in order to enforce and guarantee the respect of the fundamental principles of



“ Focus on governance and exploitation of administrative sources (...) represent two key strategic axes for the modernization of a statistical institution ”

official statistics, in particular technical coordination among statistical authorities for what concerns the use of acknowledged scientific methodologies and harmonized classifications and nomenclatures;

On the technical level:

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Institute to improve methodologies and working methods in several domains, a number of difficulties still persist, in particular the under-exploitation of administrative sources for statistical purposes, poor infrastructure and logistical support (IT systems, applications...), underutilization of mobile technologies (e.g. tablets and smartphones) that call for streamlining of the resources allocated to the Institute, keeping in mind that the opening between the Institute and the rest of Arab and African NSI has experienced some recent difficulties. The Institute has been recently ranked among the statistical institutions 'in delay', in particular because of the gaps in regional statistics.

Modernization of statistical production systems can take many forms and tackles different aspects: institutional framework, governance, resources and skills, integration of production processes and tools, standardized IT infrastructures, exploitation of new sources, increased cooperation with partners and users. Which are in your opinion the key pillars an effective modernization process should start from?

Modernization of the functioning of the institution should start, as a first step, from the revision of the legal framework in order to overcome current problems pertaining to coordination and to the adoption of nomenclatures, and of the statistical charter. In a latter phase, it will be necessary to reinforce the statistical infrastructure, in particular addressing the use of new technologies and strengthening its capacities (training and recruitment).

Focus on governance and exploitation of administrative sources too represent two key strategic axes for the modernization of a statistical institution.

And which in your opinion the core actions NSIs should invest in, both in the short term and a longer time horizon?

In the short-term, the NSI maintains its commitments to all the economic and social actors, civil society and research world with the production of statistics in all domains and in compliance with international standards, in the framework of continuous improvement of quality of data produced and in the respect of best practices and principles.

In a longer term period, the NSI will focus on expanding the list of economic and social indicators, in particular at regional and local level, on improving quality at all levels of the statistical production chain, on the implementation of an integrated information system within the NSI, with a constant eye to developing its capacities.

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A growing number of users increasingly demand for greater detail in existing domains such as disaggregated data for the regional levels, for greater timeliness to implement more rapid policy responses to changes, and for greater accessibility of data, also due to expectations raised by the internet. Against this background, the quality of official statistical production plays a major role to keep the pace with this competitive context where data are more and more available and accessible. Which measures is Statistics Tunisia putting into effect to ensure the quality of the information provided?

Strengthening the quality of the statistical information provided in every domain is largely based on the respect of internationally acknowledged methods and on capitalization of the opportunities and results offered by new technologies. In this field, the work undertaken by our institute can be resumed as follows:

- ▶ overall revision of methods and standards adopted in all the statistical processes and activities;
- ▶ integration of new technologies in all the statistical operations;

“ Modernisation of the functioning of the public statistical authorities necessarily requires the support and involvement of all actors in the statistical sector in a strongly participative approach ”

- establishment of a structure within the NSI in charge of methodologies and quality;
- improvement of the exploitation of administrative records and sources.

To what extent and in which aspects can a modernization process be limited to national NSIs and, on the other side, is it a coordinated and integrated process requiring the involvement and cooperation of other authorities and stakeholders?

Modernisation of the functioning of the public statistical authorities necessarily requires the support and involvement of all actors in the statistical sector in a strongly participative approach. The development of coordination mechanisms among public statistical authorities, along with the concrete implementation of principles of consultation and dialogue between producers and users are the key elements. International cooperation too plays an important role, through the exchange of best practices and successful experiences. It is in this context that the NSI maintains good relations with all the actors both at national and international level.

The ambitious twinning project that will start in February 2016 with INSEE of France and Istat of Italy reflects this willingness and represents a strategic exchange opportunity with these institutes.



activities in brief

Myanmar

Capacity building in statistics

Funding: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Duration: Sep 14 - Aug 16

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has launched an initiative in Myanmar to assist and support the Central Statistical Organisation of the country in building its institutional capacity with Istat as implementing agency. In the first project year Istat has supported CSO in its dissemination policies and products, has provided technical assistance to the production of vital statistics and, in cooperation with UNDP, in the implementation of the new business survey carried out in the end of 2015.

Turkey

Capacity Building Concerning Presentation and Usage of the General Government Financial Statistics

Funding: EU

Duration: Jan 16 - Jan 18

Istat, together with CSI-Piemonte, is partner in the EU twinning led by The Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance with the Directorate General of Public Accounts of the Turkish Ministry of Economy and Finance. The project purpose is the alignment of the publication and presentation of general government financial statistics with the EU standards by developing the legislation and improving the reporting capacity. Additional information available on the website: <http://twinningproject.muhasabat.gov.tr>.

Montenegro

Enhanced statistical capacity and provision of economic and social statistics

Funding: EU

Duration: 18 months starting from March 2016

The purpose of the project is to improve quality of macroeconomic, business, science, technology and innovation and social statistics in accordance with EU and international standards. It will ensure the provision of quality data in areas identified as priority by the European Commission enhancing sustainability and efficiency of the Montenegrin statistical system. Istat is partner with the Statistical Office of Slovenia of the Consortium led by GOPA Consultants.

Egypt

Capacity building in statistics - Population census

Funding: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Duration: 12 months starting from March 2016

The project has the aim to assist CAPMAS (the Egyptian National Institute of Statistics) in the implementation of the Population and Housing Census which will be carried out on November 2016. Istat intervention is mainly devoted to strength the capability of CAPMAS in census management, sample techniques, IT infrastructure, use of the Tablet for the enumeration, GIS

and outreach campaign.

Ethiopia

Capacity building in statistics - Population census

Funding: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Duration: 12 months starting from June 2016

The project has the aim to support CSA (the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia) in the implementation of the 2017 Population and Housing Census. Istat intervention is mainly devoted to improve the capacities of CSO in the areas of gender statistics, labour force, population dynamics, population projections and in data analysis and dissemination.

Serbia

Strengthening the Serbian statistical system by upgrading methodologies and standards and by the appliance of good practice

Funding: EU

Duration: 24 months starting from May 2016

The project aims at further modernisation of the Serbian statistical system and its harmonisation with European and international standards. The project focuses on three core fields, namely the further development of the SORS information and communication (ICT) system, the upgrade of the national accounts (NA) system, and the progressing of efforts in the field of sustainable development indicators (SDIs).

CARICOM

Capacity building in statistics

Funding: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Duration: 12 months starting from June 2016

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has recently signed the renewal of a memorandum of cooperation between Italy and the Caribbean Community. The framework of the agreement concerns Italian development and scientific cooperation projects such as statistical capacity building. The main purpose of Istat intervention is the enhancement of Agriculture, Environment and Gender statistics.

Russian Federation

Strengthening statistical expertise in the Russian Federation

Funding: World Bank

Duration: 30 months (initial) starting from April 2016

Istat is partner in a project with Rosstat funded by the World Bank. The consortium, led by Statistics Denmark, also see the participation of INSEE (FR), Destatis (DE), Statistics Finland and Statistics Netherlands. The project will provide advisory and capacity building services across a range of components, sub-components and topics, including Innovation in statistical data production and dissemination, Systems for quality assurance, Improvement of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and Macroeconomic Accounts, Environmental accounting, Improvement of science and innovation statistics, Strengthening of Household Survey Methodology and Measurement of Multidimensional Poverty and the Establishment of a Resource Center for Statistical Knowledge and Dissemination.

Armenia

Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia - II

Funding: EU

Duration: Sept 15 – Sept 17

Istat is partner in the EU twinning led by Statistics Denmark with the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSSRA). The project purpose is to support the NSSRA in upgrading some elements and sectors of the Armenian system of official statistics, namely: Dissemination of official statistics; Demographic statistics, Labour market statistics, Poverty statistics, R&D statistics and Environment statistics.

Istat support is provided through technical assistance missions and hosting of study visits, and is focused on vital statistics, poverty and social exclusion statistics, water statistics and water accounts.

Tunisia

Modernisation de l'appareil statistique tunisien

Funding: EU

Duration: Feb 15 - Feb 18

Istat is the Junior Partner in the Twinning project led by INSEE (FR) in favour of Statistics Tunisia.

The ambitious project, started in February 2016, will support the Tunisian Institute in its process of improving the production and availability of reliable official statistical data, through 3 main lines of action:

1. Strengthen the governance of the statistical system, improving the coordination of the public statistical structures and supporting the establishment of new institutional framework;

Adapt the regional organization of the statistical system

2. Reinforce data production in compliance with international norms and standards, in particular for NA and regional statistics.

3. Ensure better data collection and dissemination by Statistics Tunisia, to provide the country with the data required to inform social debate and formulate and monitor development policies.

MedStat IV

Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation Programme

Funding: EU

Duration: 40 months

The 4th EU programme in support of the statistical sector for the countries of the European Neighborhood Policy South officially started in January 2016.

The programme, implemented by Expertise France and a large consortium of Member States NSIs including Istat, builds on the long-lasting tradition of Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation. Funded by DG NEAR, it will be implemented through cooperation with the Forum of Euro-Mediterranean statisticians and Eurostat.

It will focus on the jointly agreed key thematic sectors of business statistics and registers, trade and balance of payment, energy, transport, migration and labour market.

Resources will also be devoted to key transversal issues such as visibility, communication and training.

LAOS

Strengthening the national statistical system

Funding: World Bank

Duration: July 2015 – June 2017

Istat is partner in the WB twinning led by GOPA with the Lao Statistics Bureau (Laostat). The aim of the project is to support the implementation of the four key pillars of the SDNSS, guaranteeing the sustainability of the results. The objective is to improve the capacity of the NSS to produce and disseminate reliable and timely macroeconomic and poverty statistics in accordance with international standards and in response to user needs. The project will be developed mainly on three components:

- A. strengthening macroeconomic and poverty data development and management;
- B. improving policies and strengthening capacity;
- C. improving data sharing and access.

PANAFRICAN COUNTRIES

Panafrican Statistics Programme

Funding: EU

Duration: 42 months starting from January 2016

The Programme is implemented by Expertise France (main contractor), in partnership with Destatis (Germany), GIZ (Germany), INSEE (France), Oxford Policy Management (UK), ISTAT (Italy), CBS (Netherlands).

The overall objective of the PAS Programme is to support African integration through better availability and quality of statistical information facilitating decision-making and policy monitoring. The more specific objectives are to 1) "improve the production and dissemination of good quality statistics in Africa"; and 2) "support the AU in strengthening its institutional capacity to provide comparable official statistics needed to underpin the AU integration process and measure African progress towards global goals". Istat will be mainly involved in the following components: Publications and electronic dissemination of official statistics; Information technologies and database; National Accounts.

activities in brief





- 8 - 9 June 2015 a study visit on “**Methods and Tools for Record Linkage, Statistical Matching and SILC Survey**” was held in Rome for a delegation from SORS, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.
- 22 - 26 June 2015 visit of a delegation from Kazstat on “**Quality evaluation by making an audit and self-assessment based on Istat experience**” in the framework of the World Bank twinning project “Strengthening the National Statistical System of Kazakhstan”
- 8 - 9 July 2015 visit of a delegation from Instat, the statistical institute of Albania on “**Building up a system for culture and leisure time statistics**”.
- 21 - 23 September 2015 visit of a delegation from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) on “**Use of web portal solutions for distribution and exchange of statistical information**” in the framework of the EU Twinning “Support to Development Process in the State Statistics Service of Ukraine with the Objective to Enhance its Capacity and Production”.
- 19 - 20 October 2015 visit of a delegation from Mozambique on “**Labour Market Information Systems**”. The visit was financed by the “International Labour Organization”.
- 11 - 13 November 2015 visit of a delegation from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia on “**Short term statistics and administrative data for STS**” within the framework of the “IPA 2012 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme”.
- 3 - 5 February 2016 visit of a delegation from the Statistical Office of Serbia on “**Sampling and estimation procedures**”
- 21 - 22 April 2016 visit of a delegation from the Statistical Institute of the Republic of Macedonia on “**Adult Education Survey**”.
- 2 - 6 May 2016 visit of a delegation from Kazstat on “**Crime Statistics Surveys**”.



In partnership with...

Cape Verde - INE **Duration: April 2014 - April 2017**

Because of the well established relationships INE and Istat have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**. The major fields of collaboration are: agriculture statistics, confidentiality, dissemination and data quality.

Mozambique - INE **Duration: April 2014 - April 2017**

INE Mozambique and Istat, building on the long tradition of cooperation between the two Institutes have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** focusing on statistical training for capacity building.

Abu Dhabi – Statistics Centre (SCAD) **Duration: May 2014 - May 2017**

SCAD and Istat have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the purpose to establish the basis for in-depth cooperation in the area of statistics. The major fields of collaboration are: Statistics methodologies and statistical processes; National Accounts; Administrative data and international data standard; Strategic planning; IT; Emerging issues: research, development, information, communication technology, time use, human resources issues. Currently Istat and SCAD are working together on improving SCAD Statistical Metadata System.

Vietnam - General Statistics Office (GSO) **Duration: April 2014 - April 2017**

GSO and Istat have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the purpose to establish the basis for in-depth cooperation in the area of statistics. The major fields of collaboration are: Census and surveys; Statistical Training System; IT applications for statistics production process; Technology and method for statistical analysis and forecast; Statistical methodology and research; Communication and dissemination.



Projects

Macedonia

Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards Istat, in consortium with SURS (SI) as Junior Partner, has been selected for the implementation of the Twinning project in favour of the State Statistical Office (SSO).

The project will support SSO in its process of improving the compliance with the EU acquis in Statistics, with a specific focus on:

- National accounts;
- Economic statistics;
- Social statistics.

Study visits

October: Rosstat is planning a training course for its experts on the subject “Accounting system of state social security expenditures for the year 2016” in Russia.



Istat | Technical Cooperation

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