

International Technical Support

Newsletter No. 5, January 2016



Editorial

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2015 saw INSEE's international technical cooperation extended to take in new partnerships, such as the cooperation framework established with the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), focusing in particular on monitoring and analysing the economic outlook and on preparing national accounts.

At the 46th United Nations Statistical Commission held in New York in March 2015, meanwhile, our Institute took part in a workshop to promote the ERETES national accounts preparation system. This software, which also exists in English and Spanish language versions, is mainly used in the countries of French-speaking Africa, and also by the Brazilian NSI which is a co-owner of the tool, along with Eurostat and INSEE. The workshop provided an opportunity for a number of national accountants, including representatives of English-speaking countries, to assess the interest of ERETES. Ghana, in particular, is interested in trying out the tool.

In June 2015 in Rabat, INSEE co-organised a national accounting workshop with the Moroccan Haut-Commissariat au Plan for national accountants from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, along with French experts. A number of different themes were addressed, including the way in which the conceptual changes in the 2008 System of National Accounting (SNA) have been taken on board by the participants.

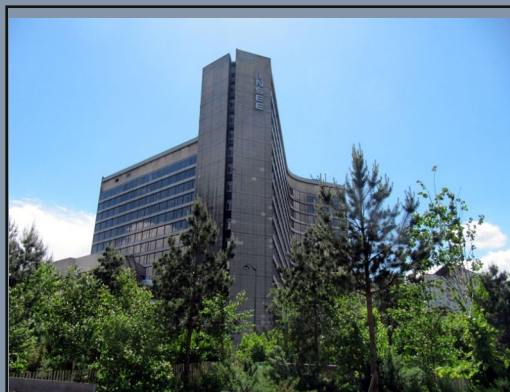
Although cooperation between INSEE and the statistical institutes of Sub-Saharan Africa is usually centralised by Afristat, our Institute does sometimes provide technical cooperation to an individual country in

the region. In April 2015, for example, a study visit was organised to Paris for Ivorian experts on employment and labour market statistics. Ivory Coast has had a bilateral agreement with INSEE since 2013. In addition to representatives of INSEE, our Ivorian colleagues also got the chance to meet statisticians from Pôle Emploi and the DARES (the statistical office of the Ministry for Labour and Employment), as well as specialists in the informal economy from the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement.

In June 2015, with World Bank financing, INSEE provided technical cooperation on ERETES to the NSI of Equatorial Guinea, a Spanish-speaking country in Central Africa. An expert from our Institute spent three weeks in Malabo to provide Equatoguinean national accountants with technical assistance and training in national accounting and how to use the ERETES tool.

Finally, and still in the first half of 2015, the INSEE International Technical Cooperation Section replied to a number of European calls for tender, three of which were won by consortiums in which our Institute is a member: a twinning project with Statistique Tunisie, a Pan African Statistics programme and a call for tender for the Mediterranean countries by the name of Medstat IV.

At the end of this newsletter, you will also find short news items describing all INSEE's international technical cooperation action in H1 2015, including several missions to Kiev within the framework of the European twinning operation with Ukraine, which came to an end this year. We hope you enjoy reading it!



Directorate General INSEE (Paris, FRANCE)

A technical cooperation framework established between INSEE and the BCEAO in 2015

A technical cooperation framework has been established between INSEE and the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO, see box) in the form of a multi-year agreement signed on 6 February 2015 between the INSEE Director General and the Governor of the BCEAO. This technical cooperation encompasses three areas: monitoring and analysing the economic outlook, quarterly accounts, and training and research.

To kick off the cooperation, three executives from the BCEAO Statistical Directorate came on a study visit to INSEE from 4 to 7 May 2015, to look into the practical organisation of economic outlook monitoring and analysis activities within our Institute. The programme for their visit was put together by Vladimir Passeron, Head of the Short-Term Outlook Department, highlighting the general principles guiding the work of the Department, the distribution of roles and the resources provided, in terms of costs and of INSEE staff profiles. Prior to the visit, the delegation was invited to view all the online documentation published on insee.fr relating to outlook publications, quarterly accounts and the methodology for certain statistical indicators.

The stand-out feature of INSEE in the European statistical landscape is its ability to perform a diagnosis of the national economic situation and forecast growth in the short term. Another specific feature is the ability of the Short-Term Outlook Department to make direct use of the indicators produced regularly either by itself or by the other departments of the Institute.

To appreciate the way in which outlook analysis activity is organised and the interactions between the relevant departments at INSEE, the various components of the system were presented, from data collection through to the preparation of the Note de Conjoncture, and including production, economic analysis and the use of econometric tools.

Presentation of the BCEAO

The Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) was founded in May 1962 and is an international public institution with its headquarters in Dakar, Senegal. It is the common issuing institution of the eight Member States of the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA): Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. In addition to centralising the cash reserves of the Union, issuing currency and managing monetary policy, its main missions are organising and supervising banking activities and providing technical assistance to the banks of the Member States of the Union.



Mr Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, INSEE Director General, and Mr Tiémoko Meyliet KONE, Governor of the BCEAO

In addition to the INSEE departments actually involved in the process (national accounts, labour force statistics and business statistics), analysis of the short-term outlook is also backed by data from outside the Institute, such as from the Banque de France. Finally, an analysis of the international economic situation puts the finishing touch to the exercise.

The BCEAO delegation showed great interest in the subjects that were addressed, emphasising the operational aspects of the use of data sources, production and outlook analysis.

The delegation particularly appreciated an invitation from the head of the Short-Term Outlook Department to take part in some working meetings held to define the “international scenario” for publication in the Note de Conjoncture: these sessions provided the delegation with an insight into the work to prepare the issue of the Note de Conjoncture which was published just a few weeks later, in June 2015.

The rich discussions during each presentation allowed the BCEAO experts a good understanding of INSEE’s know-how in terms of the practical organisation of its outlook monitoring and analysis activities (for the Note de Conjoncture) and the development of outlook forecasting models.

This cooperation is set to continue with training in the tools developed and used at INSEE for compiling quarterly accounts and in outlook forecasting models.

► *Constance Torelli*

Promoting ERETES to English-speaking countries at the UN

The ERETES national accounts compilation assistance tool, financed and designed by Eurostat and INSEE, is mainly used in the countries of French-speaking Africa, but it could also be used by other accountants around the world: there are English and Spanish language versions and ERETES is conceptually and technically compatible with the international standards for national accounts (SNA 2008).

The 46th United Nations Statistical Commission bringing together statisticians and national accountants from all the continents was held in New York in March 2015 and provided the opportunity for Eurostat and INSEE to organise a side event with a view to promoting and extending the use of ERETES.

Entitled “Why Consider IT Tools for National Accounts Compilation?” the workshop was the occasion for INSEE to present the tools accountants need to compile accounts, along with the key advantages of ERETES.



Right to left: Mr Stéphane GREGOIR, Director of Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations at INSEE; Ms Dominique FRANCOZ, Head of the International Technical Cooperation Section; Mr Jean-Samy AZIZ, ERETES expert in that section

Brazil, as the co-owner of the tool with Eurostat and INSEE, presented its use in the context of the Brazilian national accounts.

The Brazilian Institute of Statistics and Geography has been using ERETES for some ten years now and has gained many benefits from

it in terms of enhancing the reliability of its accounting methods and processes.

Cameroon, meanwhile, the first country to have used ERETES, also explained the key advantages of using the tool in terms of organising work, capitalising on methods and, most importantly, comparability for those countries that use it.

The countries taking part in the workshop asked a number of questions about the use of ERETES and many of them expressed a possible interest in using the tool. Ghana, more particularly, is a candidate to try out the system and an initial mission to Accra was organised in November 2015 to assess the country's needs.

► Jean-Samy AZIZ

A national accounting workshop co-organised by France and Morocco

From 8 to 10 June 2015, INSEE and the Moroccan Haut-Commissariat au Plan (HCP) organised a national accounting workshop in Rabat for national accountants from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, along with experts from INSEE

A workshop on the new system of national accounting

The compilation of a new annual accounts base and the introduction of a new international system of national accounting (SNA 2008)

requires a considerable investment on the part of those countries that undertake this process.

The purpose of this workshop was therefore that each of the NSIs that have already carried out this change of systems should provide the other participants with precious information on the subject, share their recent experience of such matters and describe the pitfalls to be avoided.

A large number of themes

The Moroccan accountants presented their new series of

accounts (2007-2012) complying with the concepts of the SNA 2008, and also the work they did on the change of base.

On the one hand, new statistical surveys were introduced, such as the structure survey carried out by the HCP in 2007 among companies with accounts systems in the following activities: fishing, mines, energy, manufacturing industries, building and public works, commerce and non-financial market-sector services.

On the other hand, the conceptual changes in the SNA 2008 have been applied, such as:

- the extension of produced assets and of investment (research and development and military expenditure);
- the detailed description of financial services, instruments and assets;
- application of the economic ownership criterion to goods intended for processing;
- operations in the government and public companies sector.

The themes chosen for the workshop were the subject of detailed presentations and discussions between the accountants taking part. These were:

- backcasting of accounts, an essential subject after the introduction of a new base year and

a new series of accounts. An expert from the INSEE National Accounts Department presented the principles and mechanisms of backcasting in France, and the techniques and tools used;

- the methods for compiling regional accounts, which were the subject of presentations and comparisons by INSEE and the HCP;

- the Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH) account which has been totally revised by Morocco further to a new survey conducted in 2009, with the aim of gaining a clearer understanding of the characteristics of these institutions and assessing their economic contribution.

The NPISH account was also extensively revised by France when the country switched to the 2010 base and that particular experience

was a subject of discussion, providing some potential ways forward for the accountants present at the workshop.

► *Jean-Samy AZIZ*



Bilateral technical cooperation for Ivory Coast: study visit on employment and labour market statistics

Since 2013, Ivory Coast has received multi-theme bilateral technical cooperation from INSEE. In April 2015, an Ivorian delegation came to France for a study visit on the theme of employment and labour market statistics. On this occasion, the delegation met experts from our Institute, but also from Pôle Emploi and the DARES, the statistical office of the Ministry for Labour and Employment, as well as researchers in development economics specialising in questions of formal and informal employment.

Since 2013, Ivory Coast has received particular support from INSEE. The country finds itself in a particularly difficult post-crisis economic situation and its prime objective is the recovery of its economy, which requires cooperation in statistical matters, among other things.

For this purpose, a bilateral framework agreement has been entered into between the Ivorian National Statistical Institute and our Institute covering the period from 2013 to 2015.

The corresponding activities have covered a variety of themes: national accounting, statistical coordination, employment and

labour market statistics, regional statistics, mapping, and dissemination and external communication policies.

A study visit in April 2015 on employment and labour market statistics

On the subject of employment and labour market statistics, an Ivorian delegation was welcomed to INSEE between 13 and 16 April 2015.

The delegation represented the Agency for the Study and Promotion of Employment (AGEPE), a body with a twofold remit: it is responsible for the national Labour Force Survey on the one hand, and also for

monitoring and assessing the employment policy of the Ivorian Ministry for Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training.

The study visit programme was organised around three components – institutional, operational and questions of dissemination. The delegation was placed under the aegis of Mr Moussa Dosso, Minister for Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training, who took part in the closing session and met our Director General, Jean-Luc Tavernier, for a working lunch.

Presentations were given of each of the entities met by the delegation (INSEE, DARES,¹ Pôle Emploi, DIAL²), giving a detailed description of their roles in the employment and labour market monitoring system, and of their main missions in informing economic and social debate in France.

At INSEE, it is in the Employment and Earned Income Department that this information is processed, whether the data comes from surveys or administrative sources. The presentation of the household Labour Force Survey explained its long existence, its extension and the methodological progress that has been made. Processing of the data from the Labour Force Survey by the studies departments of INSEE and the DARES gives rise to a large number of publications which often attract extensive media coverage.

The DARES also produces data on employment and the labour market, and analyses and assesses the outcomes of the policies applied by the Ministry to which it belongs.

As for Pôle Emploi, its missions are defined in the French Labour Code and consist in managing jobseekers more particularly. In order to produce statistics that are not



Left to right: Mr Claude MINNI, Studies Officer at the Directorate for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES) of the Ministry for Labour and Employment; Mr Pénatién KONE, Director of the AGEPE Observatory (Ivory Coast); Mr Kouakou Philippe N'DRI, Director General of the Agency for the Study and Promotion of Employment (AGEPE), Observatory of Employment, Professions and Training; Mr Emmanuel KOBINA, Director of Employment Policy Monitoring and Assessment at the AGEPE

disrupted by operations of a purely administrative nature, a number of specific precautions have been taken.³ The work carried out on administrative files by Pôle Emploi statisticians and economists is the subject of a variety of publications. These have been or are in the process of being awarded quality labelling by the Official Statistics Authority.

As they are familiar with the issues of developing countries thanks to their in-depth knowledge of labour markets in Africa (and in Ivory Coast in particular), the researchers from the DIAL were called in to complete the programme of the study visit. The informal economy is an important component in developing countries and survey systems do exist for measuring and monitoring employment in the formal and informal sectors. Through study projects, this research centre produces scientific studies and, more particularly, impact assessments.

The complementary nature of the various presentations provided participants with a broad overview of the information system pertaining to the labour market in France, while studies carried out in Ivory Coast, and in Africa more generally, highlighted the specific features of labour markets in Sub-Saharan Africa. The fruitful discussions during each presentation were a sign of the great interest of the participants as the Ivorian delegation expressed their technical cooperation needs in order to improve their labour market monitoring and analysis systems in Ivory Coast.

► *Constance Torelli*

¹ DARES: Directorate for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics, the statistical office of the Ministry for Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue.

² The DIAL (Développements, Institutions et Mondialisation) is a research centre in development economics and part of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD).

³ For further information about the difference between statistical data and administrative sources, see for example the article by Alain Desrosières "Enquêtes versus registres administratifs : réflexions sur la dualité des sources statistiques", published in the *Courrier des Statistiques*, n° 111 of September 2004 (http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/document.asp?reg_id=0&ref_id=cs111b).

Technical cooperation on ERETES in Equatorial Guinea: an example of coordination between INSEE and the World Bank

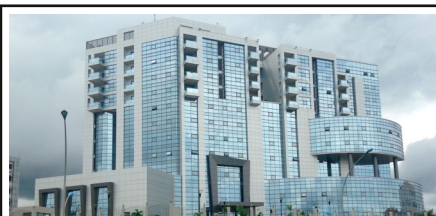
From 8 to 30 June 2015, an expert from the INSEE International Technical Cooperation Section went to Equatorial Guinea for a cooperation assignment on ERETES, the tool for compiling national accounts. The beneficiary was the INEGE (Instituto Nacional de Estadística de Guinea Ecuatorial), the statistical institute of this small Spanish-speaking country in Central Africa.

As most of the NSIs of the Afristat Member States use ERETES, that of Equatorial Guinea also chose to do so in 2011. Its objective in this mission was to consolidate and enhance the existing know-how of its national accountants.

The main outcomes

The mission comprised a training component and a technical assistance component. On the training side, most of the methods and concepts used in national accounting were addressed and the participants put them into practice by solving national accounting problems using ERETES. This showed them just how interesting

this IT tool can be in compiling accounts, notably as ERETES can be used to classify and process a large quantity of information from different sources.



Building of the INEGE, the statistical institute of Equatorial Guinea, in Malabo

After the training, as it had not been possible to cover all the themes, an additional training programme was drawn up by the INEGE national accountants: this would comprise six stages (corresponding to the steps in the national accounts compilation process in ERETES), with each lasting two weeks and the whole training being spread over one year.

On the technical assistance side, the work covered the phases of checking, analysing and loading the source data into ERETES for the

final accounts campaign for the year 2013.

It also served to set up the files the accountants will use later for loading the data.

A mission financed by the World Bank

This mission financed by the World Bank took place during what is a transition period for Equatorial Guinea, both economically and administratively, with the creation of a new NSI with a new team of national accountants, most of whom are not familiar with ERETES.

INSEE's involvement was part of a broader capacity-building project for the Equatoguinean administration supervised, at the request of the country's government, by the World Bank which has been in charge of the project for several years.

► Jean LOUIS

Three cooperation contracts with European financing won by INSEE in 2015

In H1 2015, the International Technical Cooperation Section had a busy time replying to several European calls for tender. Three cooperation contracts with European financing were won by consortiums in which INSEE is a partner.

Twining with Statistiques Tunisie

In August 2015, INSEE won a call for projects for an EU-funded twinning operation for the benefit of Statistiques Tunisie, the Tunisian NSI. Representing an amount of €1.35 million, the project will be carried out in 2016 and 2017 by our

Institute, with ISTAT (the Italian NSI) as a junior partner and the occasional participation of Lietuvos Statistikos Departamentas (the Lithuanian NSI).

The objective of the twinning is to modernise the Tunisian National Statistical Institute. The five strands of work are the following:

- A - The legislative and institutional framework of the statistical system
- B - Modernisation of Statistiques Tunisie
- C - Revision of the national accounting system
- D - Development of regional statistics
- E - Dissemination and communication policy

Management of Strands A, C and D will be handled by INSEE, by Raoul Depoutot, Head of the Statistical Coordination and International Relations Department for Strand A, and Pierre Muller, former Head of the INSEE General Inspectorate, for Strands C and D. Management of Strands B and E, meanwhile, will be in the hands of ISTAT: Giovanni Alfredo Barbieri, Director of Statistics on Business, Institutions, International Trade and Prices for Strand B, and Francesco Rizzo, Head of the Enterprise Architecture Definition and Implementation Project, for Strand E.

The project managers are: for Tunisia, Hédi Saidi, Director General of Statistiques Tunisie; for INSEE, Dominique Francoz, Head of the International Technical Cooperation Section; for Italy, as junior project manager, Tiziana Pellicciotti, Head of International Cooperation Projects at ISTAT. The resident consultant for the twinning is Jean-Pierre Cling (INSEE) and his Tunisian counterpart is Mouna Zgoulli, Central Director of Publication, IT and Coordination.

Pan-African Statistics

In October 2015, a consortium including INSEE and headed by Expertise France, the French international technical expertise agency, won a call for tender for a service contract with European financing (EuropeAid) under the name Pan-African Statistics Programme.

Representing an amount of €6.9 million, the purpose of this programme is to set up a Pan-African Statistical Institute in Tunis, placed under the aegis of the African Union, in order to support the integration of the continent by improving the quality and availability of its statistical information and building the capacities of the stakeholders involved. The project will start its activities in January 2016 and last 3½ years.

The consortium headed by Expertise France is made up of GIZ-IS,⁴ the German federal international cooperation agency, Oxford Policy Management (British cooperation agency and consulting and studies office), and the following NSIs in addition to INSEE: ISTAT (Italy), Destatis (Germany) and Statistics Netherlands.

The programme is made up of the following four points:

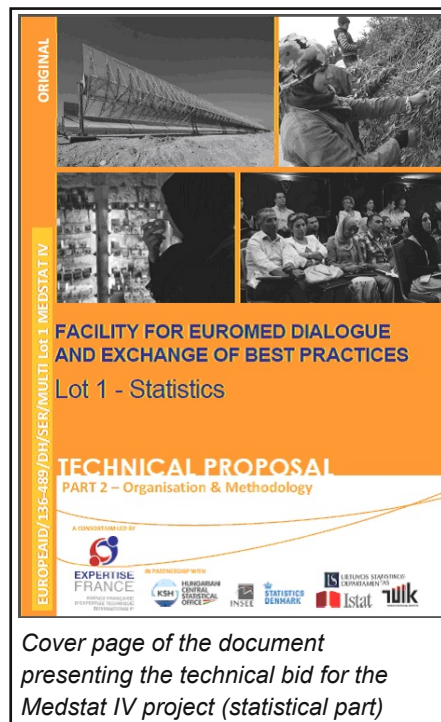
- improve the quality of statistics in certain key areas: national accounts, trade, employment, migrations and post-2015 indicators (sustainable development goals);
- prepare for Statafric, the new statistical institute of the African Union, the purpose of which is to enhance the coordination and general operation of the African statistical system;
- increase use of tools that are common to the African NSIs (ERETES, Eurotrace, etc.);
- establish an assessment of the baseline situation against which to measure statistical progress on the African continent.

Medstat IV

In October 2015, a consortium headed by Expertise France, in which INSEE is a partner, won a call for tender for a service contract with European financing (EuropeAid) by the name of Medstat IV. Representing an amount of €4.7 million, it is the fourth phase in a Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation programme which started in the early 2000s. This new phase will last 40 months from 2013 to 2019.

The ten beneficiary countries in the Mediterranean are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. The consortium headed by Expertise France, meanwhile, is made up of the following NSIs in addition to INSEE: Statistics Denmark, ISTAT (the Italian NSI), Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Lietuvos Statistikos Departamentas (the Lithuanian NSI) and Turkstat (the Turkish NSI, a new member of the consortium).

The objective of Medstat IV is the harmonisation of data and capacity building in the beneficiary countries in the following key sectors: energy, transport, foreign trade, migrations, employment, business statistics and registers, and quality (the latter two themes are new ones).



Cover page of the document presenting the technical bid for the Medstat IV project (statistical part)

The programme will be organised in working groups, each headed by a lead country chosen from among the beneficiaries, with the experts from the consortium providing support to those lead countries in their coordination of the working groups and in carrying out pre-defined work plans.

► Serge DARRINÉ

4. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH - International Services, agency based in Bonn (Germany).

News in Brief - H1 2015

United Nations Statistical Commission – New York

In March 2015, Stéphane Gregoir, INSEE Director of Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations (DMCSI), and three experts from the same department took part in the annual meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York (USA).

The plenary session of this annual event focused this year on the introduction of indicators to measure sustainable development goals.



Plenary session of the 46th United Nations Statistical Commission at United Nations headquarters in New York (USA)

Among the other key subjects which are also mobilising the

National Statistical Institutes, mention can be made of all the different censuses, the data revolution and the international comparison programme.

A side event was organised by INSEE and Eurostat to promote IT tools for compiling national accounts, and in particular the ERETES system (see article on page 3). This side event brought together representatives of the countries that use the system and of new countries interested in learning more about the tool.

News in Brief - Europe and Asia

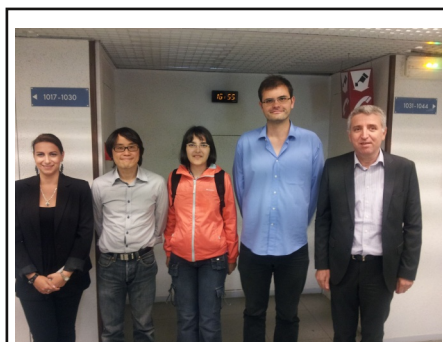
Luxembourg – Meeting of the MGSC

In March 2015, the International Technical Cooperation Section took part in the annual meeting of the Management Group on Statistical Cooperation (MGSC) organised by Eurostat. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together representatives of the international cooperation departments of European Union NSIs in order to review the technical cooperation action they have conducted over the past year (whether bilateral or multilateral with European financing) and to attempt to harmonise and coordinate their practices. It is also an opportunity to discuss with our European partners and perhaps to establish partnerships for future multilateral cooperation action. A good practice guide prepared with the participation of the NSIs was presented and is to be developed over time. It should provide ideas for action to be taken to enrich and improve cooperation practice in the NSIs.

Romania - Deseasonalisation

In May 2015, a delegation of three experts from INSSE, the Romanian statistical institute, including Mr Tudorel Andrei, President of the Institute, came for a study visit to INSEE on the theme of

deseasonalisation and the use of the JDemetra+ software programme. Mr Andrei also met INSEE Director General Jean-Luc Tavernier to discuss the possibility of cooperation between our two institutes in 2016 and 2017. After consulting with experts, INSEE should be able to give a positive response on 9 of the 15 actions requested by the Romanian NSI: building a database on the social mobility of the population (three actions); improving the quality of



Right to left: Mr Tudorel ANDREI, President of INSSE; Mr Thomas BALCONE, expert at the Statistical Methods Division, INSEE; Ms Andreea MIRICA, Counselor at the Communication Department; Mr Hien PHAM, expert at the Statistical Methods Division, INSEE; Ms Iulia BAJENARU, Expert at the General Direction of National Accounts

household surveys (two actions); producing a web application for data collection; a victimisation

survey; health accounts; conducting a survey of non-profit non-governmental institutions, foundations and other associations in the areas of health, welfare protection and culture.

Ukraine

There was a particularly busy agenda in H1 2015 in relations with Ukraine, mainly within the framework of the twinning headed by Statistics Denmark in which INSEE is a junior partner. Five missions were organised on the themes of business statistics, national accounting and business tendency surveys.

Business tendency surveys

In February, two experts from the Economic Studies and National Accounts Directorate went on an assignment to Kiev on the subject of business tendency surveys. After a study visit to INSEE on the same theme in June 2014, this new mission covered not only the methodology of business tendency surveys (organisation, sampling, questionnaire), but also the dissemination of the results. The surveys they addressed were those on industry, investment, construction, services and retail trade. The French experts were able to see that the recommendations issued during the previous visit had been applied by the SSSU.

National accounts

In March, two retired INSEE experts in national accounting went on a mission on national accounting, following on from the study visit by the SSSU in November 2014 to INSEE and the Banque de France on national and financial accounts.



Left to right:

- Ms O. HRUSHETSKA, Chief economist, Business Tendency Surveys Unit, SSSU;
- Ms Liliana LEHBAB, interpreter;
- Ms Yaëlle HAUSEUX, expert on business trends statistics, INSEE;
- Ms Anne HUSSEINI-SKALITZ, expert on business trends statistics, INSEE;
- Ms O. KOLPAKOVA, Deputy Director, Head of Business Tendency Surveys Unit, SSSU;
- Ms T. PAVLOVSKA, Chief economist of the Unit, Business Tendency Surveys Unit, SSSU;
- Ms T. DOVGAN, Chief economist of the Unit, Business Tendency Surveys Unit, SSSU

The mission looked into the following themes:

- European payments and the demands of Eurostat relating to national and financial accounts;
- the practical experience of the EU countries in preparing data for Eurostat and national accounts indicator publication formats for users;
- links between the central accounting system and the analytical additions (satellite accounts) to the SNA;
- how to reflect recent changes in the world economy in the national

accounts (multinationals, transfer prices, offshore institutional units for financial transactions, the use of intellectual property, mobility of the active population and income received from abroad, etc.)

Producer price indices

In April, an expert from the Business Statistics Directorate (DSE) went on a mission to Kiev on producer price indices (PPI).

The following points were addressed:

- methodology principles for observing industrial PPIs on internal and external markets;
- quality reports on industrial PPIs;
- methods for calculating price indices in industrial services;
- methods of price determination, time comparison and additional measurements of industrial services;
- quality reports on construction cost indices;
- methods for calculating producer price indices in postal, communication and freight forwarding services for companies;
- recommendations on compiling quality reports on PPI in services.

Classifications

In May, an expert from the DSE went on an assignment to the SSSU on the theme of product classifications.

There were two points on the agenda for the mission: first, to present the product classification revision carried out in January 2015 to the Ukrainian experts (classification specialists, sector managers and the main users of product classifications) in order to familiarise them with the new concepts and to understand the changes made in detail.

Next, to analyse the classification of certain products in the Prodcom classification (used to comply with the European regulation of the same name). The work session served to consolidate the methodological knowledge of the Ukrainian participants.

Cost and price indices in construction

Also in May, an expert from the DSE did an assignment on cost and price indices in construction, focusing on the demands of Eurostat within the framework of the STS Package 2017 in construction.

The mission therefore placed the emphasis on the preparation of production cost indices in construction (KLEMS method and links with the official classifications), the preparation of production cost indices, which are cost indices with an official margin per type of construction and per region.

At almost no cost, the SSSU will be able to produce cost indices. It is also set to begin looking into the way in which production price indices in construction should change if a time comes when companies in the sector decide to take lower margins than the maximum authorised margins.

The Prodcom European regulation

In parallel with this twinning, within the framework of INSEE's bilateral cooperation, there was a study visit to Paris by a Ukrainian delegation in March 2015 on the theme of the Prodcom European regulation and its implications for business statistics and classifications (see photo next page).



Left to right: Ms. Nataliia POSTOLIUK, Head of the Division for Statistics of Mining Industry, Electricity, Water and Gas Supplies of the Department for Production Statistics, SSSU; Ms. Oksana ZAKVATSKA, Deputy Head of the Division for Processing Industry Statistics of the Department for Production Statistics, SSSU; Ms. Nataliia TROTS, Head of the Division for Processing Industry Statistics of the Department for Production Statistics, SSSU; Ms. Iryna PETRENKO, Acting Director of the Department for Production Statistics, SSSU

Moldova – Structural business statistics

In February 2015, a delegation of three statisticians from the Moldovan NSI, the NBS, came on a study visit to INSEE on the theme of structural business statistics.



From left to right: Ms. Nina COLONNA-CESARI, Franco-Russian interpreter; Ms. Ludmila PETRAS, Deputy Head of Statistical Infrastructure Division (SID), Head of Business Structural Statistics Section, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldavia; Ms. Zinaida CIBOTARICA, Consultant of Section Structural Statistics and Register of Statistical Units, NBS; Mr. Iurie MOCANU, Head of SID, NBS

During the visit, they met experts from the DSE who presented the compilation of Annual Business Statistics (ESANE), the Annual Sectoral Survey (ESA), the Annual Production Survey (EAP) and the

Prodcom European regulation. The Moldovan delegation also visited the Pays de la Loire Regional Directorate (ESANE department) to see the way in which processing is performed on the data for the surveys mentioned above and on data from company tax returns.

Belarus – Business statistics

In May 2015, an expert from the DMCSI took part in the first meeting of the Statistics Panel of the Eastern Partnership on business statistics, held in Minsk (Belarus).



Building of the Statistical Institute of Belarus in Minsk

This panel is part of the programme of "economic integration and convergence with EU policies" for the countries of Central Europe and its purpose is to contribute to the development of a market economy in these countries. The meeting was moderated by Eurostat and brought together delegations of business statisticians from the countries of Eastern Europe (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) along with experts from the NSIs of several EU countries on registers, structural statistics and short-term statistics. The meeting provided the opportunity for INSEE to present its methods in an area in which its expertise is widely recognised.

Kazakhstan Classifications

In June 2015, an expert from the DSE went on a mission to Astana (Kazakhstan) within the framework of the twinning agreement currently underway on the theme of classifications and financed by the World Bank. Three days were dedicated to methodological work on the whole of the statistical classification system in use in

France, and two days to analysing practical cases. The work sessions showed that the statistical classification system developed by the Statistical Committee of Kazakhstan is largely based on the international and European standards. Avenues for improvement were also proposed for management of the information system, notably concerning the successive classification versions.



Entrance of the building of the Kazakhstan Statistical Committee in Astana

CPI and PPI

At the same time, a Kazakh delegation came for a study visit to INSEE on the subject of price indices in consumption and in production.

During the work sessions, the Kazakh experts discovered the methods and tools used by INSEE, compared them with their own practices and considered the automation in the future of certain procedures that they currently carry out manually.

Japan – National register for the identification of natural persons

In February 2015, a Japanese delegation came on a study visit to INSEE to see the way in which our Institute manages the National Register for the Identification of Natural Persons (RNIPP) and the National Registration Number (NIR).

Two INSEE experts, one from the Directorate of Demographic and Social Statistics (DSDS) and the other from the General Secretariat, presented both the technical and

legal aspects of the question.

The delegation was made up, among others, of experts from Hitachi Consulting, missioned by

the Japanese Ministry for Health, and a representative of the Japanese Embassy in France.

News in Brief – Mediterranean Basin

Morocco

Office des Changes

Two missions to Morocco were organised in H1 2015 for the Office des Changes.

The first, in April, was by an expert from the DES on the subject of the Survey of Trade in Services. It was devoted to reviewing and validating the questionnaire for the Survey of Trade in Services, and specifying the sample for the pilot survey, as well as other aspects of conducting the survey. The methods of adjustment for non-responses were also addressed.



Left to right: Mr Houssaine OULJOUR, Head of the Foreign Trade Statistics Department of the Moroccan Exchange Office; Mr Mounir RHANDI, Head of the Balance of Payments Division; Mr Rachid OUMAZZA, Head of the Foreign Investments Statistics Division

The second was in June by an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section, on the theme of communication and the dissemination of statistics.

The aim was to conduct a review of the internal statistical procedures guide and of the statistical part of the Office's website in terms of ergonomics.

Recommendations were also made to improve the legibility of three annual reports on the balance of payments, on the overall foreign trade position and on exports and foreign direct investments per region.

Haut-Commissariat au Plan (HCP)

There were two missions in H1 2015 to the HCP.

The first was in April on the retirement pensions micro-simulation model. This followed on from the work done in 2012-2013 on micro-simulation models.

The French expert provided support in enriching and validating the demographic module and in beginning tests on the labour market module, and also indicated the initial steps for producing a module on retirement pensions.

The second was in May 2015 by an expert from the DMCSI and was on automatic coding of the activity of enterprises. The aim was to assess needs and the feasibility of introducing an automatic enterprise activity coding process based on use of the SICORE application (Computerised Survey Response Coding System). A work schedule was also defined for this project for 2015-2016.

Algeria – National accounts and ERETES

In May 2015, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section went on a mission to the National Office of Statistics in Algiers to wind up the work on the 2001 base year using the ERETES system.

The mission also provided an opportunity to make progress on configuring the files for the current years (production matrices, volume and price indices, etc.)

Tunisia – Business statistics and national accounts

In June, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section went on a mission to assess Tunisian business statistics.

The various components of business statistics were presented (register, survey processes, use of administrative data and use of business data in the national accounts) and a diagnosis was established of the weaknesses in the system.



Our Tunisian colleagues specialised in business statistics and Ms Dominique FRANCOZ (5th from right), INSEE

Discussions between experts from the Tunisian NSI defined some points to be worked on in the future and also the information needs of the Tunisian NSI in this area.

A visit was organised to INSEE in H2 in response to these needs.

Maghreb

Population census dissemination

In March 2015, a study visit was organised on the dissemination of the population census, with the participation of delegations from the National Statistical Institute of Tunisia and the Haut-Commissariat au Plan of Morocco, two countries that both carried out population censuses in 2014.

The visit was a chance to present the way in which INSEE compiles the results of the census, the organisation of standard dissemination, related web tools, dissemination of sub-municipal level data and use of gridded data.

Statistical Methodology Days

In March 2015, six colleagues from the three countries of the Maghreb took part in the Statistical Methodology Days. The participants in question had a variety of profiles, with managers of household surveys, short-term statistics and forecasting models.

Documentation and filing

In April 2015, a study visit was organised for two experts, one Algerian and one Tunisian, on the theme of the documentation function and the filing of documents, questionnaires and data files in our Institute.

It was also an opportunity to visit the library of the General Directorate and that of the Economic and Financial Archives Centre.

Lebanon – Short-term outlook and forecasting

In January 2015, an expert from the INSEE Short-Term Outlook Department went on a mission to Beirut (Lebanon) on the theme of the short-term outlook and forecasting, within the framework of the twinning agreement between the French and Lebanese Ministries for Finance, with the aim of developing the Lebanese Microeconomics Department.

Palestine

Business register

In January 2015, three INSEE experts from the IT General Secretariat, the National IT Centre in Orléans and the International Technical Cooperation Section respectively, and Jan-Robert Suesser, former ADETEF Director, went on a mission to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) within the framework of the COMPARE (Common Palestinian Register) cooperation project on the introduction of a business register.

The purpose was to review the state of progress of the work on matching the various sources of economic information on establishments and enterprises with the file of the economic census conducted by the PCBS.

The second of these experts carried on the work in April 2015 by continuing matching the different administrative files which will be fed into the future single business register. He also helped the PCBS familiarise itself with the DUKE (DUPLICATE KILLER) tool used for this work.

Finally, in May 2015, a retired INSEE expert took part in the workshop organised by the PCBS within the framework of the COMPARE project (see News in Brief January 2015, above), and in the steering committee of the project.

The workshop brought together all the relevant government departments for a presentation of the results of the matching carried out between the information held by the various public institutions on the one hand, and that from the census of establishments by the PCBS on the other.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss local initiatives and projects relating to steering and the establishment registration system, and came up with proposals for these projects to be included.

ERETES

In January 2015, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section went on a mission to the PCBS on ERETES. The aim was to present the tool, define a work programme for its implementation and conduct the first work on the classifications that will be used.

Luxembourg - Euro-Mediterranean Forum

The final annual session of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum was held on 19 May 2015 at Eurostat (Luxembourg). The NSIs of 8 Mediterranean countries were represented there (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya) along with representatives of 4 European NSIs (Denmark, Italy, Hungary and France). A session was devoted to the European Statistics Code of Practice and to quality.

Eurostat presented a new draft Code of Practice for the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood, and in particular information on the criteria defining the independence of NSIs. Several subjects were raised during this session: implementation of the Code of Practice in the Mediterranean zone, the quality assurance framework, adaptation of the self-assessment questionnaire to the countries of the Mediterranean and discussions revolving around the definition of the national statistical system and the distinction between official statistics and administrative data.

At another session, Israel, Jordan and Egypt presented their twinning experiences.

Tunisia also presented the conclusions of a study commissioned by Eurostat on the organisation of the Tunisian statistical system.

The conclusions of the study will serve for the twinning financed by the EU.

News in Brief – Sub-Saharan Africa

Afristat

Meeting between the DG of Afristat and the DG of INSEE

In June 2015, Afristat Director General Cosme Vodounou was received by INSEE Director General Jean-Luc Tavernier. The visit took place on the occasion of Mr Vodounou's participation in the



Left to right: Mr Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, INSEE Director General; Ms Dominique FRANCOZ, Head of the International Technical Cooperation Section; Mr Stéphane GREGOIR, Director of Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations; Mr Cosme VODOUNOU, Director General of Afristat; Mr Pascal SILETE, Afristat expert in strategic planning; Mr Raoul DEPOUTOT, Head of the Statistical Coordination and International Relations Department

annual meeting of the Conference of African Statistics School Directors (CODESA) which was held in Paris and also saw the participation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Development, INSEE, the Group of National Statistics and Economics Schools (GENES) and the association "CESD Statisticiens pour le Développement".

National accounting

In January, an expert from the INSEE Economic Studies and National Accounts Directorate (DESE) and an expert from the Moroccan Haut-Commissariat au Plan took part in the seminar co-organised by Afristat and the regional agencies of the IMF (Afristat Ouest and Afristat Centre) in Bamako (Mali).

Some forty representatives from nine Afristat member countries and

sub-regional organisations (such as the BCEAO) came together there to review the harmonisation of work methods and the adoption of international standards for the preparation of quarterly accounts. An action plan for the next few years was approved by all the participants.

Regional Short-Term Outlook Seminar

In March, the half-yearly Short-Term Outlook Seminar co-organised by Afristat and UEMOA was held in Bamako (Mali). An expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section presented the TABLO model and its uses in forecasting and national accounting. In the type of outlook analysis presented at the seminar, regional dynamics were highlighted more particularly.

Senegal – Producer price index in services

In April, an expert from the INSEE Pays de la Loire Regional Directorate went on a mission to the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) in Dakar as part of the project to implement the methodology of producer price indices in services. Their work on data processing allowed progress to be made on calculating an index which will be available at the end of the year.

Cameroon – Meeting with Jean-Luc Tavernier

In March, Mr Joseph Tedou, Director General of the NSI of Cameroon, met Jean-Luc Tavernier, INSEE Director General. The new sustainable development goals (SDG) currently being defined at international level were discussed, as were the terms of implementation of indicators to monitor these SDGs, especially in the developing countries.

International conference: "Cooperation to Address the Climate Change Challenge"



Left to right: Mr Joseph TEDOU, Director General of the Cameroon National Statistical Institute; Mr Raoul DEPOUTOT, Head of the Statistical Coordination and International Relations Department; Mr Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, INSEE Director General

In March, a conference was organised by Expertise France on the theme "Cooperation to Address the Climate Change Challenge" at the Pierre Mendès France conference centre at Bercy. The event drew over 500 participants and was held with a view to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) held in December 2015 in Paris.



Left to right: Mr Denis AYENA, Executive Director of the Groupement Intercommunal des Collines, Benin; Ms Catherine GESLAIN-LANÉELLE, Director General for Agricultural, Agribusiness and Territorial Policies, Ministry for Agriculture, Agribusiness and Forests, France; Mr Joseph TEDOU, Director General of the Cameroon National Statistical Institute; Mr Magatte NDOYE, Coordinator of the Programme for Trade Consolidation and Capacity Building, Ministry for Trade, Senegal

Mr Joseph Tedou, Director of the Cameroon NSI, was invited to take part in the round table discussion on "Food security and climate change", where he talked about the contribution of statistics on these emerging issues.

Africa – SNA 2008 introduction project

In May, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section spoke at a meeting of experts in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) within the framework of

the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA).

The meeting served to review the first phase of the Pan-African project to implement SNA 2008 in Africa and to define the

orientations for the second phase, focusing more specifically on the countries' needs in terms of technical support. INSEE's contribution concerned the implementation of this second phase.

News in Brief – ERETES System

National accounts - Niger

In April 2015, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section went on a mission to Niamey (Niger) within the framework of joint cooperation, along with the regional office of the IMF (Afrifac Ouest), for the National Statistical Institute. The activities consisted in training in national accounting and the ERETES software programme.

The work underway at the NSI on the 2010 and 2011 accounts years was continued. The projects to be carried out for SNA 2008 were also presented with a view to the introduction of the future base year (2012).

National accounts – Overseas Departments and Collectivities

In March 2015, the INSEE National Accounts Department organised a workshop for the accountants of French Overseas Departments and Collectivities (DOM and COM). On this occasion, a day was devoted to the ERETES software programme and the TABLO model.

These two sessions were led by three experts from the International Technical Cooperation Section who presented the recent developments of these two tools

used to compile the final accounts (using ERETES) and rapid accounts (using TABLO).

The model applied to the economy of French Polynesia, in particular, was explained during this session.

The Polynesian delegation then carried on its work with the International Technical Cooperation Section during a workshop on the use of the model applied in Papeete, resulting in an initial estimate of the trend in the Polynesian economy for the years 2012-2014.

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