

# International Technical Support

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## Editorial

**S**ustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators are once again a prominent feature of the 11th edition of INSEE's International Technical Support newsletter, with a special four-article dossier on the subject. The latter, which was previously covered in issue 6 of the newsletter in 2016, is a hot topic in global statistics and is a recurrent theme in the beneficiary countries' requests for technical support.

INSEE has contributed to it in three ways. Firstly, its latest annual seminar in Libourne, which was co-organised with Afristat, focused on agricultural and environmental statistics related to SDGs. Secondly, Insee has been involved in the SDG Support Programme in Africa (SODDA project managed by Expertise France with funding by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs) and co-organised a workshop in Paris with Expertise France on mapping SDG indicators. INSEE also co-organised a training programme in Bamako with the French Research Institute for Development on the measurement and analysis of governance, peace and security.

Further analysis of how to improve the ERETES software package to support national accounts compilation is underway. The system has been presented to potential users at several international conferences and seminars.

INSEE's cooperation concerns all aspects of statistics, including dissemination and communication. A study visit on this topic has been organised for managers from Afristat and five African National Statistical Institutes (NSIs).

This edition features an interview with Jan Robert Suesser to mark the completion of the project to establish a business register in Palestine, which he has been managing since its launch in 2014. Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General of INSEE, attended the closing ceremony for this project, held in Ramallah in December 2018.

Lastly, this newsletter lists the cooperation actions carried out by INSEE in partnership with French Ministerial Statistical Offices during H2 2018, and it concludes with a review of the technical support provided throughout 2018.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# CEFIL seminar on “Agricultural and environmental statistics related to Sustainable Development Goals”

A seminar on agricultural statistics, co-organised by INSEE and Afristat,<sup>1</sup> was held at the INSEE Training Centre in Libourne (CEFIL) from 2 to 10 July 2018.

This event was an opportunity to bring together producers (NSIs and Ministerial Statistical Offices for Africa) and users (including regional and international organisations). It involved around twenty statisticians, agricultural engineers and agricultural economists from Afristat member states, Morocco and Tunisia.<sup>2</sup>

Representatives of the Yaoundé School for Statistics (ISSEA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) also participated in the activities.

The sessions and applied activities were hosted by experts from the Statistics and Forecasting Department (SSP) in Toulouse attached to the French Ministry for Agriculture, Afristat, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Sahel and West Africa Club.

The speakers reiterated that agriculture, which is considered to be a priority issue in developing countries, can be a powerful African economic growth driver. Indeed, reducing poverty and food insecurity is closely linked to the development of a strong agricultural sector that is adapted to the continent’s specificities and respects the principles of inclusion and sustainability which form part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

The participants’ attention was drawn to two specific features of the



Participants in the CEFIL seminar – Libourne, France, July 2018

French experience: the SSP’s close collaboration with INSEE and the obligation for the SSP to transmit many of the indicators from its surveys to Eurostat, in order to apply the European directives on agricultural statistics.

The presentation of the arrangements for the organisation of the 2020 agricultural census in France highlighted the two main challenges facing the SSP: firstly, the use of different simultaneous collection methods (online, telephone, face-to-face), and secondly, the use of a combined approach to create a sampling frame based on administrative files and representative samples of agricultural holdings.

The programme then concentrated on three indicators included in the list of international SDGs: the prevalence of undernourishment; the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES); and the global food loss index. The experts from Afristat and the FAO presented theoretical sessions and practical activities on an alternating basis, which improved the participants’ grasp of the methods used to develop these indicators.

A representative of the Moroccan Ministry for Agriculture presented a pilot survey on production costs in Morocco, which raised many questions about the methods used (choices of sectors and regions) but also about the organisational aspects of the survey.

A member of the Secretariat of the Sahel Club then described the studies related to the agricultural statistics produced by this body, giving the participants an external user’s perspective on the difficulty of ensuring the coherence of the data, whether they are produced by the countries or published on the websites of international organisations.

Inter-institutional coordination – the central theme of all the seminar presentations – was perceived as a necessity by all participants. Combining the expertise available within the NSIs and the Ministries for Agriculture remains a guarantee of success for the surveys conducted in the countries. More than a simple awareness-raising exercise, this seminar provided a detailed description of the methodology for several SDG indicators.

► Constance TORELLI

1 - Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa.

2 - Participating countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sao Tomé-and-Principe, Togo, Tunisia.



# INSEE participates in the SODDA project

The programme to support the monitoring of sustainable development goals in Africa (SODDA) was launched in September 2017.

It aims to help stakeholders in the French-speaking African statistical community (Afristat, its member states and African statistics schools) to further their reflection on the issue of indicators for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and exploit the products of this reflection.

This programme is funded by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, which has entrusted its implementation to Expertise France.

INSEE has been participating in the management of this programme, providing experts to undertake technical assistance activities, and co-organising thematic workshops with Expertise France for African countries.

The programme revolves around two main themes: providing support for reflection on monitoring SDGs and ensuring the visibility of the actions undertaken.

The first theme, devoted to reflection on monitoring SDGs, consists in helping the NSIs of Afristat member states to create an infrastructure

that facilitates the implementation of SDG indicators and enables them to play a full part in the SDG adoption process at the national level.

This means helping NSIs to identify the available indicators and the producing departments (mapping activity) and implementing a dashboard for SDG indicators.

Technical support has been planned for three SDGs of particular relevance to Afristat member states: on the one hand, SDG8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG16 (peace, justice and efficient institutions), for which a survey funded by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), conducted in 2017-2018, provides useful information for the calculation of indicators relating to these two goals; and on the other hand, SDG2 (zero hunger), which is the focus of an activity carried out under the authority of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The topic of the 2018 edition of the annual seminar co-organised by INSEE with Afristat in Libourne (see article opposite) was SDG2 indicators, a subject that has since been addressed by the SODDA programme and which supplements the FAO's activities.

The second theme consists in raising the profile of Afristat and its member states' NSIs by promoting the information available on SDGs within the NSIs and by informing the different audiences about SDGs. To this end, several activities have been planned:

- for students at African statistics schools and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) in Yaoundé, an SDG awareness day will be organised;
- for NSIs, support for the production of leaflets (see the following article on the mapping workshop for SGD monitoring indicators, co-organised by INSEE in Paris with the SODDA programme) will be provided, thus raising the visibility of the institutes' actions. Activities carried out on this topic at international events will be presented, and articles will be published in the Statéco magazine;
- for Afristat, developing a communication strategy and redesigning its website will help raise its profile.

Lastly, the programme is aiming to create synergies and establish a dialogue between participants in the SODDA programme, in addition to interactions with other projects.

In this way, SODDA should enable African statistics schools to forge stronger links with Afristat and the NSIs in relation to SDGs. Inter-agency participation in various events is also envisaged.

For example, it has been planned to assign projects on SDGs to African statistics school students, who could be supervised by experts from the NSIs.

► *Dominique FRANCOZ*



Launch of the programme to support the monitoring of sustainable development goals in Africa (Soutien aux objectifs de développement durable en Afrique - SODDA): first meeting of the working group – Dakar, Senegal, January 2018

# Workshop on mapping SDG monitoring indicators

From 1 to 3 October 2018, INSEE, Afristat<sup>3</sup> and Expertise France co-organised a workshop in Paris, on the implementation of monitoring indicators for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the framework of the SODDA<sup>4</sup> programme (see previous article on this topic).

Several African delegations took part in this event, including members of Afristat, ministerial bodies in charge of SDG monitoring, and members of the NSIs of six countries (Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Togo), along with representatives of four statistics schools, i.e. ENSEA<sup>5</sup> (Côte d'Ivoire), ENSAE<sup>6</sup> (Senegal), ISSEA<sup>7</sup> and IFORD<sup>8</sup> (Cameroon).

The activities began with a short presentation of the results of the questionnaire on the contextualisation of SDG indicators and the organisations involved in this work, and that Afristat had designed and sent to its member states.

The institutional context and the strategy established for monitoring SDGs prompted the representatives of the participating countries to share their experiences. The discussion also focused on the support provided by Afristat in this field.

An INSEE expert, who is a member of the Inter-Agency Expert Group for Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs), presented the governance system implemented in France for SDG monitoring.



Participants in the mapping workshop for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Paris, France, October 2018

An expert of the INSEE Statistical Coordination Mission then explained the French consultation procedure via the activities of the CNIS,<sup>9</sup> with a view to the production of a dashboard incorporating 98 SDG monitoring indicators for France.

The participants compared their national dashboards and exchanged views during a plenary discussion. Another exercise involved providing support to promote the work carried out on prioritising the indicators in each country.

Various communication formats were suggested, with a special focus on the production of leaflets.

These communication products have since been finalised for four countries and disseminated on African Statistics Day, which is held in November every year.

This workshop facilitated discussions between the representatives of national SDG coordination bodies and statisticians. It also reinforced the role of the NSIs in this context.

► Constance TORELLI

3 - Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa.

4 - *Projet d'appui au Suivi des ODD en Afrique* (Support project on monitoring SDGs in Africa).

5 - *École nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée* (National Statistics and Applied Economics School), in Abidjan.

6 - *École nationale de la statistique et de l'analyse économique* (National Statistics and Economic Analysis School), in Dakar.

7 - *Institut sous-régional de statistique et d'économie appliquée* (Sub-regional Statistics and Applied Economics Institute), in Yaoundé.

8 - *Institut de formation et de recherche démographique* (Demographic Training and Research Institute), in Yaoundé.

9 - *Conseil national de l'information statistique* (National Council for Statistical Information) ([www.cnis.fr](http://www.cnis.fr)).



# Training on the measurement and analysis of governance, peace and security in Africa



Participants in the training course on the measurement and analysis of governance, peace and security in Africa – Bamako, Mali, November 2018

The first edition of the GPS (Governance, Peace and Security) School in Africa was held in Bamako (Mali) from 19 to 23 November 2018, under the authority of the African Union Commission.

It was organised primarily by the French Research Institute for Development (IRD) and INSEE, with support from the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and the Malian NSI.

This training on the statistical measurement of democratic governance, extended to the issues of peace and security, is directly related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 – especially SDG16 on “Peace, justice and efficient institutions”<sup>10</sup> – and to Agenda 2063.<sup>11</sup>

The training had three aims: to introduce the participants to governance, peace and security issues or extend their general knowledge of these issues; to culminate in the drafting of a short and reasoned “policy brief” publication, based primarily on GPS<sup>12</sup> survey data and possibly on other administrative sources; and to contribute to the training of trainers. The GPS School was designed, coordinated and run by the group of researchers from IRD-DIAL who devised the GPS survey methodology, and by an INSEE expert.

The event brought together, for each participating country, a multi-institutional team which had been established in advance and included potential users and producers of GPS statistics (researchers, institutional stakeholders, non-governmental organisations, etc.) under the auspices of the NSI.

Six countries — Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar and Mali — represented by a total of 29 participants took part in this first initiative.

Each delegation, consisting of 4 to 5 representatives, chose a topic of mutual interest that is considered a national priority. The topics selected by the teams included “Criminality and security, police statistics and civic perceptions”, “Assessing bureaucratic corruption”, “Youth and political and civic participation”, and “Causes and consequences of discrimination”.

The training course alternated between plenary sessions with discussions and applied group activities. The following aspects were covered: questions and surveys, data, presentation of data, analyses and public policy recommendations.

It culminated in the preparation and drafting of a policy brief by each country.

Placing the emphasis on the multi-institutional dimension of the emer-

ging issue of GPS gave the participants an opportunity to develop a broad overview of the statistical and scientific approaches mobilised in order to address and further develop this subject of general interest.

They were also able to measure the potential benefits of the addition of different sources of data and appreciate the reflection and objectivity required when using analytical tools.

On top of informing the participants about tools, instruments and methods, efforts were also made to improve their analytical skills.

Numerous discussions allowed the participants to reflect in greater depth on the choice of issues and on the outcomes of the training that they had expected or obtained.

Due to their lack of experience, many of them found it hard to learn the scientific approach and put the different phases of the reflection into practice.

The discussions with the participants revealed their interest in and satisfaction with what they had learned from the training.

► Thomas CALVO, Mireille RAZAFINDRAKOTO, François ROUBAUD (IRD-DIAL) and Constance TORELLI

10 - Sustainable Development Goal 16: to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

11 - Agenda 2063, adopted in 2015, is the counterpart of SDGs at the African continental level (<https://au.int/fr/agenda2063>).

12 - The methodology of the “Governance” and “Peace and Security” (GPS) modules consists in adding specific modules on these topics to the household socio-economic surveys conducted by the NSIs. Mireille Razafindrakoto and François Roubaud – two researchers from IRD-DIAL – devised this method.

## Flagship actions concerning the ERETES system and carried out in H2 2018

H2 2018 was a busy period, with many activities promoting the ERETES system.

The dedicated team gave presentations at seminars organised by United Nations regional agencies to illustrate how ERETES meets the users' needs, in particular for the implementation of supply-use tables (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia - ESCWA in August 2018, and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - UNECE in October 2018).

In November 2018, an exploratory mission was carried out at the request of GCC-STAT<sup>13</sup> in two Gulf States — Oman and Qatar — in order to consider the implementation of ERETES in at least one of these two pilot countries, and with a view to its possible adoption in all member States of this Council.

Work also began on redesigning the ERETES website.

In addition, a feasibility study was carried out as part of the Pan-African Statistics Programme (PAS), in order to propose possible improvements and enhancements to the ERETES system, by adding new



*From left to right: Tigran Terlemezian, Macroeconomic Statistics Expert at the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat); Khalaf Saud Al-Suleimani, Director of the National Accounts Department at the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Oman; Sophie Bourrel and Jean-Samy Aziz, Experts on ERETES, INSEE; Ahmed Al Farid, Head of the Economic Statistics Department at GCC-Stat – Mascate, Oman, November 2018*

accounting features and integrating technical developments and ergonomic improvements.

The proposals were relayed to Expertise France in September 2018 and detailed technical specifications will subsequently be drawn up for the proposals that will be approved by the steering committee in early 2019.

With this in prospect, INSEE or-

ganised a workshop for advanced users in Bamako in December 2018, in order to find out more about their expectations and optimise their involvement in this project.

► *Jean-Samy AZIZ and Sophie BOURREL*

## Dissemination and Communication: keys to enhancing the NSIs' statistical activities

In October 2018, INSEE organised a study visit for seven managers from Afristat<sup>14</sup> and five African NSIs (Cameroon, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia) on the topic of dissemination and communication.

Two INSEE departments (the Publications Department and the INSEE Info-Service Department) presented the Institute's experience in dissemination and external communication policy, based on the principles of independence, impartiality, accessibility and exhaustiveness.

The NSIs are producing ever-in-

creasing amounts of data that are used to populate databases, enhance statistical publications and extend the range of their products (web pages, educational videos, communication materials, etc.).

This requires the implementation of resources and distribution channels in order to adapt to technological developments and digital dissemination requirements, while taking the different users' needs into account.

The presentations aimed at introducing the main dissemination and communication tools used at

INSEE and promoting the contribution made by the new professions to the NSIs (press officer, graphic designer, social media manager, etc.), working in close collaboration with statisticians.

In this way, the participants were informed about the range of publications produced by INSEE, the redesigning of its website (enabling free access to a large body of data, for example), satisfaction surveys, the organisation of the press office and the use of social networks as communication tools.

<sup>13</sup> - Statistical coordination agency of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

<sup>14</sup> - Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa.



The participants were able to discuss the experiments on dissemination and communication carried out within their NSIs, and possible improvements to their practices were also mentioned.

They also received training on writing techniques entitled “Écrire pour être lu” (“Writing for the reader”) and attended an introductory workshop on how to produce computer graphics with freeware.

► Constance TORELLI



Participants in a study visit on dissemination and communication for Afristat and African NSIs, accompanied by Christine Lagarenne (in the back, on the left), Head of the INSEE Publications Department – Paris, France, October 2018

## Creation of a business register in Palestine – Interview with Jan Robert Suesser

INSEE and Expertise France have been providing technical assistance for the creation of a Palestinian business register since 2014.

This project, to which France has contributed €700,000 in funding, ended at the end of 2018.

### What kind of technical assistance did the French expertise provide for the development of a business register in Palestine?

The assistance given to the Palestinian Authority concerned the development of a register of businesses and establishments<sup>15</sup> shared by all administrations.

The Palestinian NSI managed the project in which the Ministry for the Economy, the Ministry for Finance, Chambers of Commerce and municipalities were involved.

The French expertise was provided by current or retired INSEE managers.<sup>16</sup>

The project consisted in reconciling the files of partners, which are often non-exhaustive, with poorly recorded information from different units (taxpayers, establishments, enterprises, companies, etc.), in a variety of sectors.

The register will contain both businesses and establishments, with each level identified by a unique identifier that has no particular meaning.

Its units will be linked to those of each administration, which will retain full responsibility for the management of their files.

It will be updated on an annual basis to ensure the satisfactory coverage of each of the units identified by at least one administration and to ensure the progressive improve-

ment of the values of the variables it contains, especially the addresses which are often incorrectly entered.

Special attention has been paid to the updating procedures in order to prevent any duplicate entries of economic units in this file.

### What are the consequences of the involvement of several Palestinian administrations?

The first consequence was the extension of the operational schedule by a period of nearly two years in order to obtain files with usable information for a shared register that can be properly connected to the existing files.

The legitimacy of the Palestinian NSI meant that these files could be obtained from all of the institutions contacted without recourse to a binding legal framework.

15 - The establishment is a production unit that is geographically individual but legally dependent on an enterprise.

16 - The project manager for Expertise France was Jan Robert Suesser. The lead expert for INSEE was Philippe Brion, who took over from Jean-Marc Béguin. The other INSEE experts were Franck Cotton, Constance Torelli, Éric Sigaud, Karim Tachfint, Chaimae Baghdadi (student) and Hugues Picard. Nadra Gharbi (on leave of absence from Statistiques Tunisie) completed the team.

Data collection tests were carried out with the municipality of Ramallah which, like all the other municipalities, possesses detailed knowledge of the situation in the field and has contacts with each establishment.

This experiment has confirmed the aim of using municipalities to carry out the exhaustive collection of most data within their territories in the future.

### **How does the Palestinian business register compare to its French equivalent?**

Like the French register "Sirene", it is designed to provide exhaustive coverage of active economic units, create links between enterprises and establishments, and eventually introduce a common business coding system. Its role is to improve the coverage and quality of the data from files specific to each administration.

There is one significant difference, however, because unlike Sirene, the Palestinian register is not a registration file for economic agents.

Indeed, public identification numbers are not created. Each administration will continue to manage its register according to its own units and identifiers.

### **The project ended in late 2018. How can its results be assessed? Is a follow-up project envisaged?**

An initial version of the register has been compiled, covering nearly 40,000 establishments reconciled on the basis of files from at least two administrations.

This is a remarkable result, in view of the lack of homogeneity in the identification variables collected by each administration.

However, a large number of very small units could not be introduced and the variables of many entries have not yet been entered, as none of the partners have recorded them in a reliable manner.

A work programme has been drawn up in order to make the required improvements over the years to come.

The project can be assessed on two levels: its duration and the expertise provided.

The relatively long duration of the project (four years) is mainly explained by the time required to obtain usable data.

The choice of giving the Palestinian NSI sole responsibility for relationships with its partner institutions required it to take ownership of the frequently complex components of the project.

In general, lengthy projects also have an impact on the involvement of the experts who contribute to the activities of a project on an occasional basis.

This raises the question of how they can monitor the work carried out by the colleagues they are assisting while providing relevant responses at exactly the right time, to which there is no easy answer.

In any case, transferring the Sirene system was not the purpose of the expertise provided for this project.

As a consequence, the French experts' proposals were largely based on the information received from the Palestinian party, in order to ensure they were relevant to the local conditions and complied with the international methodologies, of course.

This work on the adaptation of knowledge was a central component of the value added by the expertise provided.

► *Interview by Serge DARRINÉ*



*Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) – the Palestinian NSI, and Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General of INSEE, at the kick-off ceremony for the first version of the Palestinian Business Register – Ramallah, Palestine, December 2018*



# In brief – Cooperation activities undertaken by INSEE in H2 2018

## Sub-Saharan Africa

### WAEMU countries

In November, a training course on seasonal adjustment was presented at a seminar held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) for economic analysts and forecasters from countries belonging to the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). This Short-Term Outlook Seminar is organised twice a year by Afristat with the regional economic and monetary commissions (WAEMU for West Africa and CE-MAC<sup>17</sup> for Central Africa).

### Benin and Burkina Faso

From September to November, an INSEE expert on National Accounts undertook two missions to Benin at the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE), and two missions to Burkina Faso at the National Institute for Statistics and Demographics (INSD), in order to continue work that had begun in H1 2018. This concerned the automation of resources-uses balances calculated for goods and services in the National Accounts.

### Maghreb and Senegal

In November, a workshop on how to write scientific articles on calendar effects was organised at the INSEE training centre (CEFIL) in Libourne. It was designed to help the participants write an article on the effects of Ramadan on prices, while taking differences between countries into account. An INSEE expert presented the activities, alternating between theoretical presentations and practical activities and focusing on data-correction techniques (seasonal variations, effect of business days, etc.) applied to monthly and quarterly time series. The four participants came from Morocco (Higher Planning Commission), Tunisia (Statistiques Tunisie and the Tunis office of the International Monetary Fund), and Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demography).

17 - Economic and Monetary Community for Central Africa.

18 - Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### Senegal

An INSEE expert undertook two missions organised by Paris21<sup>18</sup> in Dakar at the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD). The aim was to assess the progress made on the project to reorganise the Senegalese statistical system, paying particular attention to the establishment of a human resource management and promotion system.



*From left to right: Luc Rouvière, Head of the Training Section at INSEE; Siga Ndiaye Dia, Senegalese National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD); Daniel Huart, consultant for Paris21; Oumarou El Hadji Malam Soule, Lead Expert for Afristat; Mamadou Niang, ANSD – Dakar Senegal, September 2018*



*Participants in the training course on writing techniques presented by Serge Darriné (in the middle), Expert in communication and dissemination, INSEE – N'Djamena, Chad, September*

### Chad

In September, an INSEE expert presented a training course on writing techniques in N'Djamena, as part of the "Improving your statistical publications" project. Around twenty Chadian managers received this training. Half of them were from the National Institute for Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) and the other half

came from the Directorate of Studies and Forecasting (DEP) at the Ministry for Finance and the Budget. A representative of Afristat was also present. The INSEE expert then audited four Chadian statistical publications to assess their clarity.

### Togo

In September, an INSEE expert participated in a peer-review mission for the Togolese NSI in Lomé. This exercise, carried out in the framework of the Pan-African Statistical Programme, set out to assess the Togolese statistical system in relation to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics of the United Nations, and the principles of the African Charter on Statistics. The two peers were Harouna Kone, who was Director-General of the Malian NSI at the time, and Hamidou Said Ounais, Deputy Director-General of the Comorian NSI.



*From left to right: Alex Kouassi, Director-General of the Togolese National Institute for Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED); Dominique Francoz, INSEE Expert; Kossi Assimaïdou, Minister of Development Planning for Togo; Harouna Kone, peer participating in the review and Director-General of the Malian National Institute for Statistics (INSTAT); Hamidou Ounais, peer participating in the review and Deputy Director-General of the Comorian NSI – Lomé, Togo, September 2018*

## Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, and Senegal

A delegation of researchers and public statisticians from Sub-Saharan Africa, participating in the Demostaf<sup>19</sup> programme, was invited to INSEE to discover the population census procedure in France and the structure of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS). The participants also attended a public meeting of the CNIS Demographics and Social Issues Commission.



*Christine Raoul (on the left), INSEE Expert on census surveys, and the participants in a study visit for African researchers and statisticians as part of the Demostaf programme – Paris, France, November 2018*

## Cape Verde

In September, two experts in national accounts, one from INSEE and the other from the Moroccan Higher Planning Commission, undertook a mission to Praia to set up the ERETES system at the Cape Verdean NSI. This mission was carried out as part of the implementation, by this NSI, of a new 2015 benchmark year compliant with the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008.

## Tunisia and PAS

In November, an INSEE expert participated in a seminar in Tunis on the transition to the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008. This event was organised as part of the Pan-African Statistics (PAS) programme.

## Afristat – Courtesy visit to INSEE

On the margins of the mapping workshop (see article on p.4), De-

puty Director-General of Afristat Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé was received by Director-General of INSEE Jean-Luc Tavernier.



*Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, Deputy Director-General of Afristat, and Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General of INSEE – Paris, France, October 2018*

## Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Afristat

In September, a delegation of Ivorian statisticians led by the Deputy Director-General of the Côte d'Ivoire NSI, accompanied by two statisticians from the Tunisian NSI and one expert from Afristat, were welcomed to INSEE for a study visit on regional GDPs.



*Participants from Afristat and the Ivorian and Tunisian NSIs in a study visit on regional GDPs, accompanied by Jean-Samy Aziz and Constance Torelli (2nd row, 2nd and 3rd from the left), INSEE – Paris, France, September 2018*

Together, they attended presentations on the methods used to calculate and disseminate regional GDPs in France. The Tunisian NSI presented its work in this field, carried out as part of the recent Euro-

pean twinning project conducted by INSEE in partnership with ISTAT.

## Maghreb and Mediterranean Basin

### Algeria

Two expert missions were carried out in November for the benefit of the Algerian Office for National Statistics (ONS). The first concerned regional statistics. INSEE's experience in this field was presented, including the creation of regional databases. The purpose of the second mission was to present the methodology for business surveys and provide support for the ONS's salary survey in Algerian enterprises.

### Morocco

A macroeconomic modelling mission, carried out by two INSEE experts, took place in July at the Higher Planning Commission (the Rabat-based Moroccan NSI), as part of a project initiated in 2017. The experts were able to assess the progress made in the project, work with their Moroccan colleagues on enhancing the development of the quarterly model and improve the quality of the estimates.



*Jocelyn Boussard and Adrien Lagouge (2nd and 3rd from the left), INSEE Experts in macroeconomic modelling, with Moroccan colleagues. From left to right: Hasnae Fdhil, Head of the Communication and Cooperation Division at the Higher Planning Commission; Abdellah El Idrissi El Jaouhari, Director of the National Institute for Short-term Analysis (INAC); Lina Tazi, Amal Mansouri and Soufiane Riffi, economic analysts at INAC – Rabat, Morocco, July 2018*

*19 - Demography Statistics for Africa. This mobility programme enables the performance of collaborative research involving academic institutions and NSIs, in addition to training and skill transfers between institutions. It is funded by the European Union and coordinated by the French National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED).*



Two INSEE experts in human resource management and training undertook a mission at the Higher Planning Commission (HCP) in November, to provide support with the reorganisation of its National Register of Jobs and Skills and share INSEE's experience in this field. This mission was an opportunity to define the content of the "human resources" project that the HCP wishes to carry out with INSEE.

## Tunisia

In November, an expert mission on dissemination and communication was undertaken in Tunis. Its aim was to initiate a project involving Statistiques Tunisie (the Tunisian NSI) and INSEE on the implementation of a dissemination and communication strategy and associated tools, following on from the activities carried out in the recent European twinning programme involving Statistiques Tunisie between February 2016 and April 2018.

In December, an INSEE expert undertook a mission in Tunis on the data collection method used for the quarterly labour force survey. The Tunisian NSI is planning to abandon paper questionnaires and use tablet computers instead. An experiment was carried out throughout 2018. The expert analysed the results of both collection methods and formulated a diagnosis concerning the stoppage of paper questionnaires.

## Maghreb

In July, an INSEE expert on consumer prices participated in a workshop in Tunis on the harmonization of consumer price indices in the Maghreb region, organised by the Arab Maghreb Union.

Three managers from Morocco and Tunisia took part in two training courses on human resources organised by INSEE, one in September and the other in October. The first was on taking up posts in the training sector, and the second was on using the Lime Survey software to evaluate training courses.

In July, five national accountants from the Maghreb participated in a workshop in Paris on general government sector accounts and on

the chaining of quarterly accounts, which gave the five participants an opportunity to present and discuss their experiences.



*Déborah Massis and Pauline Meinzel (3rd and 4th from the left), INSEE Experts on national accounts, accompanied by colleagues from the Maghreb participating in a workshop on general government sector accounts and on the chaining of quarterly accounts – Paris, France, July 2018*

In December, a workshop on the Statistical Metadata Standard (Rmès) programme was held in Paris. It brought together seven participants from three Maghreb states, i.e. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. As part of the activities on modernising the NSIs, our partners from the Maghreb are planning to set up tools to improve the documentation of their statistical operations and secure the storage of their data.



*Guillaume Duffes and Thomas Dubois (4th and 5th from the left), INSEE Experts on metadata, with colleagues from the Maghreb participating in a workshop on the Statistical Metadata Standard (Rmès) project. From left to right: Mourad Ouni (Tunisia), Abderrahmane Taleb (Algeria), Brahim Ahl Ezzine (Morocco), Henda Kmiri (Tunisia), Hatem Sedghiani (Tunisia) and Laila Kehel (Morocco) – Paris, France, December 2018*

After a general presentation of the RMÉS programme, the workshop set out to present various aspects

of the content (in production or in the pipeline) of the RMÉS standard, including the modelling of statistical objects as well as management tools and publication procedures. This involved discussing concepts and classifications, in addition to the documentation of statistical operations (quality report), variables, and the design of questionnaires.

One session was set aside to enable the represented countries to share their experience of metadata servers, storage and the management of classifications.

## Medstat IV programme

In October, in Paris, an INSEE expert took part in a workshop on gender statistics.

## Israel

In July, INSEE hosted a delegation from the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) for a study visit on the collection methods used in household surveys. This visit followed on the actions undertaken on the same topic in H1 2018, as part of a European twinning project in favour of the CBS.

## Palestine

In July, an INSEE expert undertook a mission to follow up the implementation of the ERETES system in Palestine.



*Solveig Vanovermeir et Cédric Mamari (2<sup>e</sup> rang, 2<sup>e</sup> et 7<sup>e</sup> en partant de la gauche), experts de l'Insee en recensement de la population, et Pierre-Arnaud Pendoli (1<sup>er</sup> rang, 1<sup>er</sup> en partant de la gauche), méthodologue, en compagnie de la délégation du CBS, l'INS israélien, et de Charlotte Nielsen, Statistics Denmark (2<sup>e</sup> rang, 1<sup>er</sup> en partant de la droite), conseillère résidente du jumelage en Israël – Paris (France), juillet 2018*

In particular, this enabled the drafting of an experimental supply and use table for 2013. The transition to the new benchmark year (2017) should be completed in 2019, using the same tool.

## Europe

### BALKANS

#### Serbia

In H2 2018, the Serbian NSI benefited from four cooperation actions undertaken by INSEE.

In July and again in August, an INSEE expert on National Accounts travelled to Belgrade to provide technical support for the production of supply and use tables. Both missions followed on from the technical support provided in the same field in the framework of a European-funded service contract which ended in late 2017.

In September, Miladin Kovačević, Director-General of the Serbian NSI, came on a study visit to INSEE to meet with Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General of INSEE, and attended presentations on several topics — short-term economic forecasts, uses of Big Data, the legal framework for statistics, the organisational structure of the French official statistics system and a presentation of new publications by INSEE.



*From left to right: Jean-Pierre Cling, Head of the INSEE Statistical Coordination and International Relations Department; Katarina Stančić, Head of the Prompt and Complex Reporting and Public Policies Support Division at SORS, the Serbian NSI; Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General of INSEE; Miladin Kovačević, Director of SORS; Dominique Francoz, Head of the INSEE International Technical Assistance Division – Paris, France, September 2018*

In October, two managers of the Serbian NSI travelled to INSEE on a study visit to obtain technical support covering seasonal adjustment and the JDemetra+ seasonal adjustment software programme. They also attended a presentation on several examples of econometric studies conducted by INSEE.



*From left to right: Isidora Jovandic and Petar Korovic, Researchers and Statisticians at SORS; Vesna Aralica, Franco-Serbian interpreter; Hien Pham and Alain Quartier la Tente, INSEE Experts in seasonal adjustment – Paris, France, October 2018*

#### Bosnie-Herzegovina

In October, a delegation of statisticians from Bosnia-Herzegovina was welcomed to INSEE for a study visit on regional and national accounts.



*From left to right: Benoît Hurpeau and Marina Robin, INSEE Experts on Regional Accounts, accompanied by the delegation from Bosnia-Herzegovina: Jelena Djokic, Dragana Kunovac, and Rada Radanovic, RSIS; Dijana Mikota and Senija Facic, BHAS; Zana Alagic, RSIS; Edina Kozic and Brana Taraba, BHAS; Haris Imamovic, Anglo-Bosnian interpreter – Paris, France, October 2018*

#### Albania

In December, the Albanian NSI benefited from technical support delivered by an INSEE expert on population census surveys.

This support, provided in the form of remote assistance, was designed to help this NSI set up a new population census survey in 2020. This cooperation project is expected to continue in 2019.

## Asia

### WESTERN ASIA

#### Turkey

In November, a delegation from the Turkish NSI visited Paris to address the issue of education accounts. The French organisation responsible for providing support on this topic was the Ministerial Statistical Office for National Education, the Department for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance (DEPP). This visit followed a mission by a French expert in Ankara, in H1 2018.

### ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

Three missions by French experts were organised for the benefit of statisticians in ASEAN countries and the Secretariat of this organisation. Firstly, two missions were undertaken in Jakarta, Indonesia. In September, an INSEE expert provided technical support on national accounts, and in October, another INSEE expert presented a training course on seasonal adjustment.



*First row, from left to right: Alain Gallais, INSEE Expert on National Accounts; Lia Emalia, Statistician at ASEANstats; Puguw Irawan, Head of ASEANstats; Yannick Bineau, Team Leader of the European ASEAN Compass project. Behind them: the participants in a regional workshop presented by Alain Gallais on the harmonisation and implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, designed for the national accountants of ASEAN countries – Jakarta, Indonesia, September 2018*



These were followed by a mission in Hanoi, Vietnam, in October. An expert from the French Directorate-General of Public Finances (DG-FIP) presented a training course for different institutions in ASEAN countries on the methods used to conduct business surveys. The following institutions were represented: the NSIs of the Philippines and Laos, Cambodian Central Bank, the Myanmar Ministry for the Economy, and the Vietnamese Ministry for Planning and Investment.



*Benoît Buisson (on the right), DGFiP Expert on business survey methodologies, accompanied by a Filipino delegation, at a training course he was running for statisticians from several ASEAN countries (Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos) – Hanoi, Vietnam, October 2018*

## EASTERN ASIA

### China

In July, a Chinese delegation came to Paris to undertake a study visit on intellectual property and R&D. Technical support was provided by the Ministerial Statistical Office for Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Sub-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies - SIES) and the High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education.

The visitors were members of four different bodies — the State Intellectual Property Office of China, the Chinese Intellectual Property Society, the National Bureau of Statistics of China, and the Scientific and

Technical Department of the Chinese Embassy in France.



*From left to right: Zhao Zhibin, Secretary-General of the Chinese Intellectual Property Society; Guan Xiaojing, Deputy Director-General, of Social Science and Culture Department of the National Bureau of Statistics; Gao Jia, Official Representative of the Planning and Development Department of the Chinese State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO); Bi Nan, Director-General of this same department at SIPO; Kong Xinxin, First Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Department of the Chinese Embassy in France; Li Guanqun, Project Administrator at the International Cooperation Department of SIPO; Gan Shaoning, Deputy Commissioner at SIPO; Yan Tao, Second Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Department of the Chinese Embassy in France; Géraldine Seroussi, Head of the Department of Statistical Studies for Research, Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI); Thomas Balcone, Head of the Business R&D Survey, Department of Statistical Studies for Research, MESRI; Justin Quemener, Head of Studies on Research and Innovation Economics at the Observatory of Science and Technology, High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education; Christophe Bonté, Department of Research and Innovation Strategy, MESRI; Gang Sheng, Franco-Chinese interpreter – Paris, France, July 2018*

In addition, two INSEE experts on short-term economic forecasting

undertook a mission to the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics in Beijing in October. This followed a study visit by a Chinese delegation to INSEE on the same topic in H1 2018.

### Japan

In December, a Japanese delegation travelled to INSEE to carry out a study visit focusing on collaborative economy. The Japanese colleagues came from the Ministry for the Economy, Trade and Industry and also from Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting Co. Ltd.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

### Vietnam

In December, an INSEE expert undertook an exploratory mission to Hanoi concerning the launch of a cooperation project with the Vietnamese NSI on national accounts, with particular emphasis on supply and use tables, input-output tables and changing the benchmark year.



*Alain Gallais (1st row, 3rd from the left), INSEE Expert on National Accounts, accompanied by national accountants from the GSO – the Vietnamese NSI – including Mr Duong Manh Hung, Head of the Department of National Accounts (1st row, 2nd from the left) – Hanoi, Vietnam, December 2018*

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# International technical support provided by INSEE and its partner Ministerial Statistical Offices – Summary of actions undertaken in 2018

## Number of actions carried out

Type of funding	Number
Bilateral	68
Multilateral	71
Total	139

## Number of days of expertise provided

Type of action	Number
Missions	445
Visits	103
Remote assistance (home-based activities)	57
Seminars, workshops	31
Total	636

## Number of experts mobilised

Origin of the experts	Missions	Visits	Total
Active INSEE staff	51	105	156
Active Ministerial Statistical Office staff	3	5	8
Retired INSEE staff	7	2	9
Total	61	112	173

## Countries benefiting from technical support provided by INSEE and partner Ministerial Statistical Offices in 2018

