

Editorial

INSEE demonstrated its continuing commitment to cooperation in 2010. We conduct most of our cooperation projects under bilateral agreements. A key aspect of this work consists in organizing and running seminars.

Nevertheless, INSEE attaches great importance to participation in multilaterally financed projects. In 2010, our Institute was very active in projects in Ukraine and Algeria (AMECO project), as well as in the Medstat III regional program.

We concentrate our support on three geographic areas: Europe outside the EU, the Mediterranean rim, and Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa. Of the three areas, the one in which we were most heavily involved in 2010 was the Mediterranean rim—particularly North African countries.

Cooperation with European countries is largely confined to Serbia and Ukraine. But new prospects are emerging thanks to the build-up of ties with Russia and the revival of cooperation with Turkey. Meanwhile, INSEE continues to help Afristat and African statistics schools expand their activities.

2010: a major investment in projects in Ukraine, on the Mediterranean rim, and in Sub-Saharan Africa

A positive outcome for the Ukraine project

INSEE conducted a project with the SSCU (State Statistics Committee of Ukraine) on the general topic of “Development of the official statistical system.” Financed with a World Bank loan, the project lasted two and a half years, from February 2008 to July 2010.

INSEE took part in the project as a member of an international consortium led by ADETEF, the cooperation agency of the French Economy and Finance Ministries. The other partners were the Romanian and Finnish statistical institutes, two private firms—ICON (Germany) and Statinform Consulting (Ukraine)—and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (Russia). The goal was to promote convergence of the Ukrainian statistical system toward European and international activities in the following sectors: national accounts, businesses, industry, agriculture, investment and construction, energy, external trade, wholesale/retail trade, services, prices, household expenditure surveys, demography, environment, and regional statistics. Two topics were cross-sectional: infrastructure and metadata.

Experts from INSEE and, more generally, from the French official statistical system were in charge of nine of the sixteen components of the contract. The work pace was very intensive in 2008 with thirty-seven actions (of which twenty-nine missions to Ukraine and eight visits to France), slowing to about fifteen in 2009 and approximately ten in 2010. In regional statistics, for example, we presented a tool for summarizing local data. We explained all the stages of the process, from the compilation of the database to information analysis and dissemination, with mapping techniques for comparing territorial units.

The overall assessment of the project was largely positive. Our Ukrainian partners appreciated the quality of the experts and their attentiveness to specific local conditions.

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AMECO project continues in Algeria

The AMECO project (French acronym for “Support for Management of the Algerian Economy”) is a project financed by the European Union. It includes a “strengthening of the national statistical information system” component carried out with Algeria’s national statistical office (ONS). Launched in 2007, the operational phase began in 2008 and will last until autumn 2011. INSEE has assigned two experts to supervise the project at the Algiers-based Support Unit. One expert is providing technical support to the ONS mainly in national accounting. In 2010, AMECO offered opportunities to strengthen cooperation with our Algerian partners via nineteen missions and two visits.

We focused on two specific areas in 2010: macroeconomic modeling and training. An INSEE modeling expert conducted ten missions to Algiers to assist economists at the Forecasting and Statistics Ministry in constructing two models.

Meanwhile, experts from the Grouping of National Economics and Statistics Schools (GENES)— the umbrella unit for INSEE research and education activities—conducted five missions to the Institut Supérieur de Gestion et de Planification in Algiers. The goal was to organize an M.A.-level curriculum in economics and statistics for staff members of Algerian economic ministries.

Launch of Medstat III regional program

The Medstat III program for Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation began in 2010 and will continue until end-2013. It has received €7 million in funding.

The beneficiaries are: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories, Syria, and Tunisia. One of the goals is to improve the quality of official statistical systems in these nine countries and territories of the southern and eastern Mediterranean. The program covers six statistical fields: agriculture, wholesale/retail trade, energy, migration, social statistics, and transportation. The objective is to increase data quantity, quality, and use. ADETEF is supervising the program, and nine statistical institutes are partnering with ADETEF to implement the contract (France, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom), as well as private-sector entities.

INSEE has assigned two staff members as “key experts” in external trade and social statistics respectively. The experts from INSEE are also providing assistance in transportation statistics, social surveys, and seasonal-adjustment methods. In a March 2011 workshop on harmonization of social indicators, beneficiaries and INSEE experts defined a list of indicators in three fields—education, labor market, and poverty—and fleshed out the metadata for each of the indicators produced by participating countries and territories.

Support for national accounting in Sub-Saharan Africa

The year 2010 saw two major events in the area of national accounting: the 13th conference of the French Association for National Accounting (ACN) (Paris, June 2-4) and the seminar on national accounts organized by Afristat, the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (September 13-17).

One of the ACN conference sessions was devoted to the introduction of the System of National Accounts (SNA) in African countries. The presentations described SNA93 implementation in Francophone and Anglophone countries, illustrated by case studies of Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Tunisia. Speakers emphasized INSEE’s contribution to the preparation of national accounts in Africa, which includes involvement in Afristat projects, support for introduction of ERETES national accounting software, and participation in workshops and seminars.

The other highlight of 2010 was the Afristat seminar on national accounts in Bamako, organized by INSEE and Afristat experts. The main goals were to initiate discussions on SNA2008 implementation and continue work on the analysis and dissemination of national-accounting results. After addressing the methodological guide for the analysis and dissemination of national accounts, participants focused on the preparation of short-term economic reports. Other topics were addressed more briefly: presentation of a methodological document on quarterly accounts, the 2011 round of international price comparisons (IPC Africa), and the latest developments on the ERETES module (adaptation to SNA2008 and development of a working tool on long-term series).

Seminars on a very wide range of topics in 2010

A significant proportion of technical cooperation in 2010 was devoted to organizing and running seminars.

EUROPE (outside EU)

With support from the Czech Statistical Office, INSEE organized a workshop on classifications of economic activities and the international classification of occupations in Kutna Hora, May 31-June 2, 2010. The event brought together thirty specialists from fourteen countries of Central/Eastern Europe, including new EU Member States, candidate countries, and potential candidates, as well as Russia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

One day was devoted to the international classification of occupations. Discussions on economic classifications centered on the implementation of the new European classification of activities and products.

NORTH AFRICA

A workshop for Algerian, Moroccan, and Tunisian statisticians on the analysis of the economic cycle was held in Rabat on October 17-19, 2010. Co-organized with the Moroccan High Commission on Planning and run by an INSEE expert, the event was devoted to time-series processing and the extraction of trends from economic series. Participants gave presentations of real-life cases. The workshop offered an opportunity to study the effects of national calendars of North African countries on key economic series.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

INSEE experts took part in seminars and workshops organized by Afristat in 2010, including:

- a seminar on introduction of new classifications of activities and products in Afristat member countries
- a workshop on producer price indices (industry and services) and cost-of-construction indices for Afristat experts; INSEE experts later contributed to the development of methodologies for implementing these indices in member countries.

CEFIL, the INSEE training center, hosted two events in Libourne (France):

- a training workshop on institutional communication and the use of the Web for disseminating information
- a seminar on implementation of business registers and preparation of harmonized industrial production indices.

In addition to technical cooperation with Afristat, INSEE continued to provide major support for the three Francophone statistics schools in Abidjan, Dakar, and Yaoundé.

CEFIL also held a workshop for the schools' directors of studies on the strengthening of capabilities in training engineering.

Bilateral cooperation still intense

In 2010, INSEE provided some 80% of its technical support under bilateral cooperation agreements.

EUROPE (outside EU)

In addition to cooperation with Serbia, 2010 saw a revival of cooperation with Russia and Turkey.

We organized about ten cooperation projects with **Serbia**, notably in short-term statistics, classifications, and regional statistics.

Bilateral cooperation with **Russia** focused on the integration of business statistics into national accounts and on classifications of activities and products.

Cooperation with **Turkey** was reactivated with a visit from Turkstat colleagues to discuss implementation of the code of statistical good practices and the preparation of a peer review.

NORTH AFRICA

The largest share of our bilateral cooperation in 2010 concerned the Mediterranean countries.

We carried out some twenty projects with **Morocco**, chiefly in national accounting (including financial-sector accounts with support from the Bank of France), short-term economic analysis, and modeling. Other missions were devoted to drafting the twinning agreement with the Foreign Exchange Office (Office des Changes), effective January 2011, on the preparation of statistics on external transactions.

Missions and visits to/from **Tunisia** were largely dedicated to national accounts, the labor-force survey, and statistical coordination.

A visit by the Director General of **Algeria's** National Statistical Office (ONS) provided the opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation with that country. A framework agreement was signed to ensure continuity of relations after completion of the European-funded AMECO project.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

INSEE's support for national statistical institutes (NSIs) in the region chiefly involves support for **Afristat** activities.

We undertook nearly thirty initiatives in 2010, mostly in the form of missions and help in running seminars. The main area of cooperation remains national accounting. But we are also engaging in new fields, such as industrial production, producer price, and cost-of-construction indices, and the preparation of quarterly national accounts.

In 2010, INSEE continued to support the **statistics schools** of Senegal, Cameroon, and Côte d'Ivoire by organizing and financing entrance exams, sending staff members on teaching missions, and seeking funding. With INSEE's help, the three schools continued to adapt to the procedures and standards of the LMD (B.A.-M.A.-Doctorate) system. The three schools have also made arrangements with our training center, CEFIL, for educational technology transfers.

LATIN AMERICA - CARIBBEAN

INSEE represents European NSIs at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (**ECLAC**). Technical support in 2010 continued to focus on national accounting, with training sessions and participation in an annual seminar.

In the aftermath of the earthquake of January 12, 2010, the DIAL Center for Research in Development Economics is conducting a project in **Haiti** in cooperation with INSEE and in partnership with the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Technology (IHSI). Funded by France's National Research Agency (ANR), the project aims to set up a survey system to measure the impact of the earthquake and of aid programs on the living conditions of Haitian households.

Statéco

The latest issue (no. 105) of *Statéco*, a journal of development economics, is largely devoted to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). One article discusses production of statistics for food-security policies. Other articles look at development indicators from a variety of perspectives. To download a copy (in French), go to: <http://www.insee.fr/fr/insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=connaître/stateco/stateco105.htm>



Cooperation activities in 2010

Central Europe and Balkans

Countries	Topics addressed	
	Missions	Study visits
Croatia		Short-term statistics
Regional workshop in Czech Republic	Classifications	
Moldova	Classifications	
Poland	Social statistics (poverty)	Social statistics (poverty)
Serbia	Classifications Short-term statistics Innovation Seasonal adjustment Organization of national statistical institute	Quality management
Turkey		Quality management Peer review

CIS countries

Countries	Topics addressed	
	Missions	Study visits
Ukraine	World Bank project: Household budget survey Industrial services Investment and construction Quarterly national accounts Regional statistics Trade statistics Welfare social statistics	World Bank project: Demography Trade statistics Services Quarterly national accounts National accounts
Russia	Classifications	National accounts Business statistics

Mediterranean countries and territories

Countries	Topics addressed	
	Missions	Study visits
Algeria	AMECO project: Assessment of the statistical system Macroeconomic modeling National accounts Training	Management Dissemination
Lebanon	National accounts	National accounts
Morocco	National accounts including financial accounts Macroeconomic modeling Demography Human Development Index (HDI) Trade statistics Training on seasonal adjustment	Financial accounts Production prices Short-term statistics Labor-force survey Macroeconomic modeling
Tunisia	Organization of national statistical institute Administrative statistics Classifications Labor-force survey National accounts (including ERETES software) Short-term statistics	Organization of national statistical institute Business register Statistical coordination Short-term statistics National accounts (including ERETES software) Labor-force survey
Palestinian Authority		Director General's Visit
Medstat III project	External trade	Social surveys

Sub-Saharan Africa

Countries	Topics addressed	
	Missions	Study visits
Cooperation with Afristat	National accounts (including ERETES software) Informal economy Social statistics Classifications Short-term economic analysis	Demography Macroeconomic modeling National accounts (including ERETES software) Statistical coordination Training of statisticians
Cameroon	Macroeconomics National accounts Short-term economic analysis	Organization of national statistical institute
Mali	National accounts	National accounts
Senegal	Macroeconomic modeling National accounts (including ERETES software) Quarterly national accounts	

Latin America-Caribbean

Countries	Topics addressed	
	Missions	Study visits
ECLAC	National accounts Training in national accounts (Kangaré)	
Brazil	National accounts (including ERETES software)	
Haiti	Household survey	

International conference

Venue	Topics addressed	
	Missions	Study visits
Vietnam (Hanoi)	Employment and informal sector	

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