



# EXPERTISE FRANCE STATISTICAL COOPERATION IN FOCUS



EXPERTISE  
FRANCE

**Expertise France** is the French public agency for international technical assistance. It aims at contributing to sustainable development based on solidarity and inclusiveness, mainly through enhancing the quality of public policies within the partner countries. Expertise France designs and implements cooperation projects addressing skills transfers between professionals. The agency also develops integrated offers, assembling public and private expertise in order to respond to the partner countries' needs.

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# 01

## Foreword

Isabelle VALOT, Head of the Economic and Financial Governance Department at Expertise France



“ Our agency is definitely a leading cooperation actor in the field of Official Statistics. ”

Under the joint supervision of the French Ministries of Europe and Foreign Affairs and of Economy and Finance, Expertise France has become the leading French agency for international technical expertise since 2015 and the merger of six public operators (Adetef, FEI, ADECRI, SPSI, ESTHER and GIP Inter). Expertise France covers multiple and comprehensive areas of cooperation.

The agency deploys its competencies in order to address more effectively the growing demand for advice and assistance of emerging and developing countries and address their needs in terms of public policy and governance. This support to public reforms covers the interlinked institutional, economic, demographic, social and environmental challenges these countries encounter. Today, the overarching framework for progress is given by the Sustainable Development Goals, the achievement of which is a shared worldwide aim.

Expertise France is an agency that acts directly in the field to implement granted projects. More than often these are complex development projects for which Expertise France is charged by partner countries and donors to mobilise project managers and experts who address and respond to the regional and local contexts, bringing a recognised knowledge of international standards and successful implementation experiences from abroad.

The agency works in partnership with other public or private agencies, administrations, businesses, public corporations, civil society organisations, etc. to implement these projects. This capacity to combine and create coalitions that bring together expertise and assistance in various thematic sectors and geographical areas makes of Expertise France a major actor of French and European technical assistance.

Our agency is definitely a leading cooperation actor in the field of Official Statistics. Quality statistics allow for better governance as they are key elements for the identification, formulation and monitoring of better policies. The increasing demand for robust statistical information is a central issue for statistical agencies all over the world. They are expected to be the guardians of good quality and harmonised data that have to be available and comparable over time, produced and disseminated according to international best standards, respecting the ethical rules that the statistical profession adheres to.

Regarding assistance to Official Statistics, Expertise France and INSEE (French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Research) are obviously key players. They are involved in bilateral cooperation, in European Union twinning projects as well as in large regional multi-beneficiary programmes.

With more than 25 million euros of turnover in 2016, and currently covering almost ten projects, the Department of Economic and Financial Governance of Expertise France and its Unit of official statistics and development are proud of serving the Official Statistics international community.

# 70 years of French international technical cooperation for statistics

**When created in 1946, one of the mandates of INSEE included international cooperation. At that time, this was an almost unique feature for an Official Statistics Office.**

**Adetef, the public cooperation agency for international technical cooperation within the French Ministry of Economy and Finance was created in 1981 with a mandate to tackle INSEE's international assistance.**

**Today, Expertise France and INSEE's international action have now a joined accumulated experience of almost four decades, which is at the disposal of the international community.**

INSEE's support to training in statistics and to the production of National Statistical Offices has adapted over decades to our changing world. To mention only a few of these assistance activities, let us mention the creation of Afristat, the Economic and Statistical Observatory for sub-Saharan Africa in 1993, and the regional statistical schools located in Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Senegal, which welcome students from many African countries.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, INSEE and Adetef answered with no delay to the demand for technical assistance. Support was required to assist the building of a statistical system fit to inform about the development of a market economy and on the social impacts of the transformation. The French expertise, very active within the European framework for assistance, had been present since 1993 to help Central and Eastern European countries prepare for EU accession. As of then, the support became two-fold: (i) the development of statistical tools in order to provide information in the context of a market economy, and (ii) the implementation of the statistical “acquis communautaire” for integration to the European Union in 2004.

Some of the main instruments of today's statistical assistance toolbox emerged in these years. With other financing instruments proposed by international development banks, they are at the core of the projects Expertise France is in charge of.

Twinning is a cooperation instrument put in place by the European Union in 1998 that has been steering institutional cooperation between public administrations of EU Member States and beneficiary or partner countries. Only three years after its creation, INSEE was granted the first twinning project with the Polish

statistical institute. Later, the twinning instrument was extended (and adapted) to include countries not concerned by the EU integration. INSEE continues to bring technical support to its counterparts through this instrument.

EU-funded regional assistance programmes in statistics also emerged in this period, as the European Union developed a new partnership set-up under the European Neighbourhood Policy. This partnership promotes social and economic reforms with Eastern and Southern partner countries of Europe. In this framework, in the aftermath of the launch of the Barcelona process in 1996, a first regional statistical cooperation programme “MEDSTAT” was launched. Expertise France has been implementing this programme, on behalf of the European Commission, since 2006.

Within the Eastern Partnership and from 2011 onwards several regional statistical cooperation projects have brought capacity building and training activities to this region. Beyond Europe and the neighbourhood instrument, Expertise France has been chosen to manage assistance to other regions through capacity building projects in Africa and in Asia.

Today, it can be expected that the involvement of official statistics in achieving SDGs will bring new demands, and possibly new ways and tools for sharing experience, advice and assistance. INSEE and Expertise France are keen to join this challenge with the statistical community.

This document presents some of the major statistical cooperation projects EF is currently implementing, gives the floor to its key experts and presents the team behind the actions. We hope you will enjoy your reading.

# 2016 Key figures

**23.3 M€**  
Portfolio of statistical cooperation projects

**2700**  
working days of expertise provided

**120**  
partner countries

**90%**  
of cooperation projects are regional ones

**15**  
ongoing projects

Europe

**1.2 M€**  
**6%**

Middle East and North Africa

**7.8 M€**  
**33%**

Africa

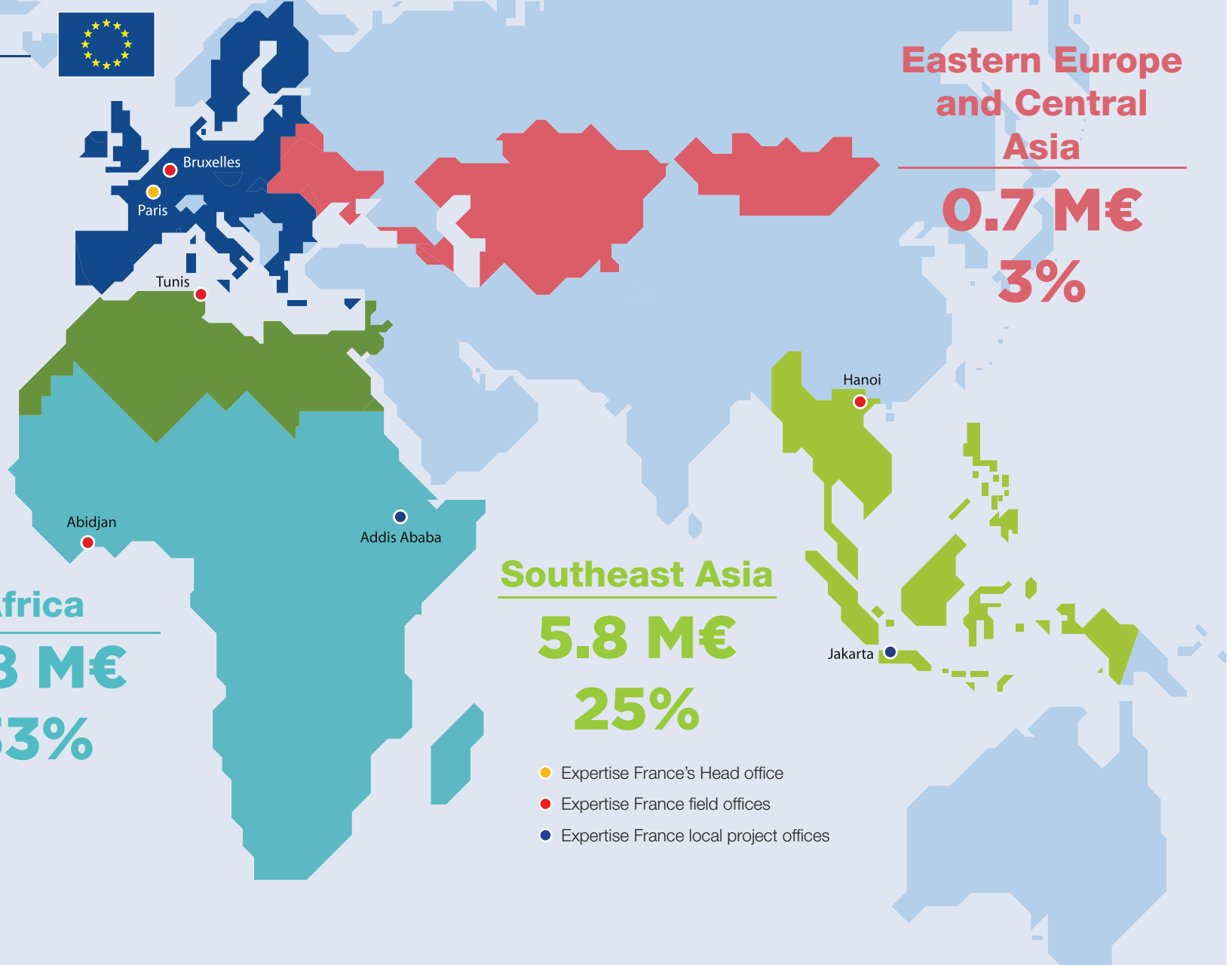
**7.8 M€**  
**33%**

Southeast Asia

**5.8 M€**  
**25%**

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**0.7 M€**  
**3%**



- Expertise France's Head office
- Expertise France field offices
- Expertise France local project offices

**1946**

**1981**

**1989**

**2001**

**2004**

**2006**

**2015**

INSEE: start of the statistical cooperation

ADETEF creation

First joint mission of INSEE and EUROSTAT to Poland

First French twinnings in statistics

Statistical cooperation through the Neighborhood policy

MEDSTAT Regional Project

Expertise France creation



# Developing official statistics for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals

With the UN General Assembly decision of September 2015, progress regarding the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets will be followed through the measurement of 244 statistical indicators.

This is becoming a crucial and challenging issue for the statistical community, and particularly for official statistics all over the world. Reaching the dissemination of reliable and comparable indicators is a complex task that can only be achieved with a proper pooling of experiences gained in each country.

Already the United Nations Statistics Division, as well as other major multilateral institutions, are taking responsibility in assisting all involved partners in order to facilitate success in this endeavour.

International cooperation will be a driver for success. It will need to encompass funding, technical assistance, platforms for sharing experiences and assist their adaptation to local conditions, etc.

Furthermore, the planned regular updating of the list of indicators to better measure and describe progress in relation to the targets set will benefit from pilot statistical products developed with the help of international cooperation.

In this context, Expertise France, thanks to its significant experience in statistical assistance and its diversified network of experts, is devoted to the achievement of the measurement of SDG targets. It intends, in strong coordination with INSEE, to participate in this global work of the statistical community.



## 02 Bilateral Cooperation

Bilateral cooperation is a mutual form of cooperation between two countries. In France, it is INSEE, the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, which is in charge of implementing this policy. To do so, it is supported by a technical cooperation budget allocated by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

It is one of the oldest forms of cooperation that allows countries to benefit from the French know-how and statistical knowledge.



# Bilateral Cooperation

**Dominique FRANCOZ, Head of the International Technical Assistance Section at INSEE**



“ Bilateral programmes are designed consistently with multilateral ones so that partner countries receive a coherent support and the expertise is used in an efficient way. ”

INSEE has a long tradition of international technical cooperation and it is one of its missions. Being part of a worldwide network of stakeholders in statistics, this bilateral cooperation contributes to the dissemination of know-how and helps partner countries reinforce their own national statistical systems in line with international standards. These cooperation activities are financially supported by a specific budget allocated by the French Ministry of Economy and Finance.

INSEE's cooperation activities, take several forms including technical assistance missions, study visits or seminars and workshops, and are carried out by official statisticians or by other experts from the French public statistical system. Bilateral programmes are consistently designed with multilateral ones so that partner countries receive a coherent support and the expertise is used in an efficient way. Even though multilateral cooperation has taken precedence over bilateral actions, this relation remains paramount for INSEE.

Simultaneously, within the European statistical system, the Institute promotes partnerships with other European national statistical institutes thus contributing to the development of its international relations.

Currently, bilateral cooperation covers three geographical areas: Europe outside the EU, Maghreb and Sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa, one of the key partner is Afristat, the Sub-Saharan African economic and statistical observatory whose 22 members are mainly French-speaking African countries.

INSEE's current strategy is built around 3 goals:

- To develop actions on topics such as national accounts, sustainable development goals, quality, NSIs governance and capacity building;
- To give priority to actions that gather several partner countries in order to rationalise the use of experts, to share experience and good practices, to promote South-South cooperation and to increase the visibility of the Institute's international cooperation;
- To put together multiannual projects with key partners.

In this spirit, INSEE and the Haut-Commissariat au Plan of Morocco, the national institution in charge of statistical production, planification, economic analysis and forecast, signed in October 2015 a cooperation and partnership agreement giving a new impetus to an already long and fruitful cooperation. It will focus on the emerging needs of statistical data at the regional and international levels through new ways of collaboration. The actions carried out will aim at sharing experiences between experts, carrying out joint studies and cooperation programmes targeted at third parties, as well as implementing multiannual projects.

In 2016, in the framework of bilateral cooperation, INSEE was involved in 80 activities accounting for 275 days of expertise provided by 80 different experts.



**FOCUS EXPERT**

**Jan Robert SUESSER, Team leader**

*This French technical assistance aims to help each Palestinian institution benefit from an exhaustive and updated shared Administrative Business Register to better register and follow the active economic agents that come under its field of responsibility. In Palestine, the PCBS has been given a special role for coordinating relating efforts. More efficiency in public governance in relation to business activities is the issue at stake.*

*By its very nature, official statistics serves the common good, mostly through the information it produces and disseminates. But not only. As a science, statistics is also developing norms and standards, and proposing classifications that organise information in a meaningful way for its various users. Official statistics uses to follow collaborative approaches when building its products. The Administrative Business Register that the PCBS is developing aims to serve as a common tool for many Palestinian institutions. The PCBS itself will benefit from it for its statistical production.*

*When operational, the ABR will look very simple, in both its content and its use. Until then, such a project implies a very complex process of work that includes inter-alia:*

- Cooperation between the various institutions, thus pooling the information they possess that can contribute to identify enterprises;
- Development of matching tools in order to reconcile the identification information and select the best one for each variable;
- Conception of proper updating tools and processes;
- Providing the compiled updated information to each partner in order to make him benefit from it for achieving its works.

*...The number of partners, the diversity of their responsibilities, the technical issues at stake, etc. add difficulty to the difficulties. In this circumstances, motivation is key to success.*

## Technical assistance to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for the creation of an Administrative Business Register

The main aim is to support the creation of an Administrative Business Register shared by different Palestinian administrations and institutions to improve knowledge and facilitate the management of relations with economic actors. The informal economy is a matter of concern which has led the Palestinian government to coordinate efforts to enable public administrations to have a better knowledge and understanding of the economic actors. In 2008, the PCBS was entrusted with the responsibility of a National Inter-Administrative Committee (bringing together the main ministries in charge of relations with enterprises, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Local Affairs) in order to progress in the exchange of information from their respective registers. On the French side, the project is carried out by Expertise France, in close collaboration with INSEE, which provides its technical expertise. On the Palestinian side, the PCBS is responsible for the project and the Ministry of Finance is a member of the steering committee.

Overall objectives and expected results:

- To build a business register that aggregates all known economic entities;
- To use identification variables and classifications that are common to all administrations, based on the international classifications standards;
- To have an up-to-date business register so that each administration can easily correspond with the entities concerned by its field of action.

**BENEFICIARIES:** Palestine  
**DONOR:** French Ministry of the Economy  
**BUDGET:** €700,000  
**START DATE:** 2014  
**DURATION:** 4 years

**12**  
**Palestinian partner institutions**

**Since 2014**



# 03

## *Regional cooperation*

Regional cooperation addresses regional challenges, promotes cooperation among partners and builds bridges by engaging partner countries to discuss and exchange views, experiences and best practices. Expertise France builds its work and actions based on the experience, practice and knowledge gained from the implementation of large statistical cooperation programmes over the years. This is particularly true of regional programmes developed in the context of integration processes and aiming to enhance national statistical capacities through the reinforcement of knowledge and skills.



# Regional Cooperation

**Beata SUSZTEROVA, Head of the official statistics and development unit at Expertise France**



“*In the last few years, Expertise France developed a strong experience in the management of large regional projects in various parts of the world, Africa, Asia and the Mediterranean area.*”

The homogeneity and comparability of statistical data is a key requirement for setting common objectives and designing common policies in a context of a targeted regional cooperation as well as of a broader integration process. The regional harmonisation of statistical methods and processes also helps in improving the quality of the data produced by each individual country. There are many examples of successes stories in this area starting with the development of the European Statistical System (ESS) as an instrument to feed decision making in all the segments of the European integration process.

In the last few years, Expertise France developed a strong experience in the management of large regional projects in various parts of the world, Africa, Asia and the Mediterranean area. This experience comes in complement of other instruments of cooperation aiming at enhancing national statistical capacities through transfer of knowledge and know-how and the empowerment of local skills.

The regional dimension makes it possible to share high quality technical assets for the benefit of all the countries involved, something that would be far more difficult and challenging to develop through support projects to each country taken individually. In general, statisticians are well aware of the weaknesses of their national systems and participants in regional activities often face similar problems and constraints. However, they work in isolation and are not confronted to concrete applications of new techniques and methods, solutions, good practices that could be implemented in their own country context.

The regional cooperation projects allow discussing technical innovations, innovative tools and identifying and exchanging the good practices. The regional dimension may also offer a larger basis for the diffusion and the transmission of statistical tools and techniques to a variety of users. This often translates in each country into an increased coordination between national actors in statistics, leaving behind tensions of political nature. In the same spirit, the regional approach makes it possible to maintain activities and a programme of work even in periods of high tension.

In a regional cooperation scheme, and thanks partly to peer pressure, all the countries may improve their respective performances whatever is their starting level. In general, there is a desire to move towards a greater quality and comparability of data, and a willingness to exchange and make the best of it for the most and the less developed. They are all drawn up.

Technical assistance delivered through a regional project is more than only an unwinding list of activities. It is a “reaching beyond” phenomenon and a ground to build more responsible partnerships through the promotion of official statistics. This will in turn benefit to the whole region through the exchange of knowledge, of professional experience and of best practices.



**FOCUS EXPERT**

**Henri TYRMAN, Deputy Team leader**

*The main support of COMPASS is on foreign trade and foreign direct investment statistics. We work with statistics offices of the region, the General Secretariat of ASEAN itself, and all organisations that use or produce these statistics, such as central banks, Ministries of Trade, etc. Our action consists of working groups with statisticians in the different countries, and focus on training delivery or the provision of direct assistance on the ground.*

*For example, prior to the project, the customs or statistics authorities in several countries in the region had neither an adequate understanding of international standards, nor the necessary tools to produce satisfactory statistics. A team of experts was therefore sent out to train them. Similarly, several countries use investment authorisations, which they issue to foreign businesses, to record the total foreign direct investments made in the country each year. Simply authorising an investment does not mean it actually happens in practice. You have to start from actual measurements by training the authorities to organise statistical surveys and maintaining a register of businesses created or developed using foreign funds.*

# COMPASS : Statistics as a vector for Economic Integration

Expertise France supports the Member States and the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the production of quality statistics, information and exchange of good practices within the ASEAN regional community.

The COMPASS project aims at strengthening cooperation in four keys areas: international trade in goods and services, foreign direct investment, institutional capacity building and information technologies. This cooperation takes the form of technical assistance missions, advisory services, studies, study visits, seminars, workshops and working groups.

Furthermore, the project pays specific attention to narrowing the development gaps among ASEAN Member States by facilitating access to higher education in statistics for staff officials from less advanced countries. The goal of COMPASS is also to promote exchanges of good practices between ASEAN Member States through the ASEAN-Helps-ASEAN approach.



**BENEFICIARIES:** ASEAN Secretariat, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam

**DONOR:** European Union

**BUDGET:** € 5,870,760

**START DATE:** 2014

**DURATION:** 4 years

**PARTNERS:** ICON, Artemis, Statistics Norway, INSSE Romania, CBS Netherlands

**WEBSITE:** [compass.asean.org](http://compass.asean.org)



**10**  
countries



**341**  
participants



## MEDSTAT IV: Strengthening the capacity of Mediterranean countries to collect updated, timely and relevant statistics

In the last 15 years, the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in statistics has evolved, adapting to the changes of the situation in the region, to the changes in the priorities of the EU-ENP South relation, and to that of the regional cooperation. In a rapidly changing environment, such as that experienced in the last few years by the above countries, access to reliable and comparable data is an essential factor to correctly assess the consequences and impacts of the changes and to design adequate and tailored measures to address them.

In addition to a continuous support to the production of more and better quality data, the project puts emphasis on two issues: (I) It continues exploring ways towards more partnership-oriented cooperation, and (II) It supports statisticians in the countries to establish deeper and more fruitful relations with users of statistics in the region, both as a group and individually.

The project provides support to 6 thematic sectors (business registers, external trade and balance of payment, transport, energy, labour market and migration statistics). Particular attention is also put on transversal issues such as visibility, relations with users, training, gender, and synergies both among the sectors and with other programmes or initiatives supporting statistics in the region.

**BENEFICIARIES:** 10 Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan, Palestine, Morocco, Syria (cooperation currently suspended), Tunisia

**DONOR:** European Union

**BUDGET:** € 4,707,070

**START DATE:** 2016

**DURATION:** 40 months

**PARTNERS:** Hungarian Central Statistical Office, INSEE, ISTAT, Statistics Denmark, Statistics Lithuania, Turkish Statistical Institute

Since  
**2006**

**4.7M€**  
budget



**FOCUS EXPERT**

**Thierry PACCODU,**  
Team leader

*The project is full of challenges, in a region in a midst of a deep mutation and in which statistical information is still poorly visible. For statistics, the challenges are primarily technical: some countries have improved very quickly while others face resource constraints which prevent them from improving at the same speed. The other challenges are operational and strategic. Without regional institutions, statistical cooperation activities are developed only on the basis of the countries' good will. Eventually, despite the numerous political tensions, countries succeeded in working together.*

*The fourth phase of MEDSTAT is a milestone in the history of North-South statistical cooperation. It aims at progressively transferring the responsibility of the implementation of the activities to the Mediterranean countries. De facto, this project is becoming a driving element in the establishment of an effective partnership between the two sides of the Mediterranean Sea.*



**FOCUS EXPERT**

**Maxime BONKOUNGOU,**  
Team Leader

*As team leader of the project, my duty is to steer the implementation team. It includes the overall coordination and implementation of the project with regard to all administrative, financial and contractual aspects. It is a huge and very complex project with high objectives.*

*It is also a great opportunity for the continent. It aims at moving African statistics to a position of legitimacy and trust. Indeed, how can development at country level be planned and monitored without relevant and reliable statistics? How can common economic policies be designed without indicators to monitor? In this matter, the African statistical system has a crucial role to play by providing quality and comparable data on a timely basis for all decision-making processes.*

*Thanks to our efforts and the motivation of all the African stakeholders, we now have a state of play of all seven domains covered by the PAS programme. After one year of work, it is possible to feel how much has already been accomplished.*

## PAS: the first regional Pan African Statistics Programme

The stakeholders of the African Statistical System are working on the adoption of a cooperative and continental statistical approach, as evidenced by the creation in 2009 of the African Charter for Statistics and the decision taken by African Heads of State in January 2013 to establish the Statistical Institute of the African Union.

The increasing demand of the African States to monitor the development goals contributes to this strong desire to improve statistical data in Africa. Since 2016, Expertise France strives to respond to this demand in a relevant and sustainable manner through the PAS programme, the first regional statistical project in Africa.

The Pan African Statistics programme conveys the improvement of the availability and comparability of official statistics in Africa, at regional, national and continental levels, the facilitation of decision-making and monitoring of policies essential to the process of African integration and the measurement of the continent's progress in achieving the global goals. The project provides assistance through workshops, trainings and technical assistance missions provided by statistical experts recruited in response to the project's needs. These activities are designed for professionals from African organizations responsible for the production and dissemination of official statistics (National Statistical Institutes, Regional Economic Communities, etc.).

**BENEFICIARIES:** African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (REC) and the 55 member states of the AUC

**DONOR:** European Union

**BUDGET:** € 6,885,716

**START DATE:** 2016

**DURATION:** 42 months

**PARTNERS:** GIZ, Oxford Policy Management, DESTATIS, INSEE, ISTAT and CBS Netherlands

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
Regional  
project in Africa

**6.8M€**  
budget

# ESTP: the European Statistical Training Programme

The European Statistical Training Programme has been running from 2007 to provide European statisticians high-quality international training courses at postgraduate level. The programme, funded by Eurostat, entered its third phase in 2016 with a transversal dimension to meet the challenges of European and international comparable statistics.

The objective of the ESTP is to meet the specific needs of the European Statistical System (ESS), by taking into account the different levels of statistical knowledge and working experiences and promoting and disseminating European best practices. It comprises a large spectrum of courses including one on big data, social statistics, dissemination & communication, and other sectors of statistics. The programme provides adequate solutions and simulations of real work situations through a balanced combination of theoretic and practical exercises during the courses.

**BENEFICIARIES:** Officials and employees of National Statistical Institutes or corresponding Competent National Authorities (CNA) of EU Member States, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, candidate countries and potential candidates as well as Eurostat.

**DONOR:** European Union

**BUDGET:** € 813,850

**START DATE:** 2016

**DURATION:** 4 years

**PARTNERS:** ICON and 18 European NSIs



**FOCUS EXPERT**

**Adolfo Gálvez MORALEDA, Statistician and course leader at INE Spain**

*ESTP is a truly essential programme that reinforces the collaboration among ESS members. It contributes to building a solid background and a common understanding of different aspects of the data production process which is not always reflected in other statistical training plans.*

*Three specific characteristics of this initiative should be emphasised: the variety of the activities, the idea of offering introductory and advanced levels, and the combination of internal and external training experts for these training sessions.*

*For the course on Dissemination & Communication, we presented the most recent projects that the European Statistical System was carrying out in terms of communication including the DIGICOM project that is a part of the Vision2020 initiative. Participants are a key element for a successful course and we had a set of very interesting presentations on voluntarily bases. Questions and active involvement in discussions were essential for going deeper in several topics and the overall general assessment of the course was very positive.*



**FOCUS EXPERT**

**Lkhanaa TSEVEENJAV, Senior officer of the Public Relations Division, National Statistics Office of Mongolia**

*Thanks to EFTA funding I could participate to this training course. It was really noteworthy to participate to the introductory course on "Big Data and its tools" in Rome, on 12-15 December 2016, as I learnt a lot about analysing web logs, digital tracing or social networks data. Thanks to that training I now work more efficiently since I have a better understanding of the user's experience on our website and am able to mine social networks data.*

*By getting more data and reaching more people, I can better respond to the statistical data user's needs. Back in Mongolia, I organised an information-sharing session, where I have been able to share with my peers the knowledge and skills I have gained during this training.*

# ENP-East Programmes: Enhancing National Statistical System of EECCA countries

Expertise France has been helping improve official statistics in relation to the European Neighbourhood Policy with Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries (EECCA) through two projects run simultaneously. On the one hand, through the "Statistical Training Programme for the ENP-EAST countries" and, on the other hand, through the project "Support to the implementation of EU statistical standards in the ENP-EAST countries".

In the framework of the project "Support to the implementation of EU statistical standards in the ENP-EAST countries", regular panel meetings are organised to bring Eurostat and European experts to discuss technical issues with the representatives of NSIs from EECCA countries that need further assistance. These panels are followed by technical workshops on selected thematic topics to allow these countries to better master the topics and enhance their national statistical system as a consequence.

The "Statistical Training Programme for the EECCA countries" was launched with the specific aim of helping these countries in the process of harmonising official statistics and reinforcing comparability of statistical data through the collection, processing and dissemination processes. Based on ESTP syllabus, the training courses are given by qualified trainers from the EU and designed to promote the transfer of practical skills and theoretical knowledge for daily practice of data production and dissemination.

**BENEFICIARIES:** EECCA countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldavia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Mongolia's participation is made possible under EFTA funds.

**DONOR:** European Union

**BUDGET:** € 1,020,496

**START DATE:** 2013 & 2015

**DURATION:** 5 years & 3 years

**PARTNERS:** ICON (For ENP-East Programme) & Statistis Lithuania (ENP-East Standards)

Since **2007**

**18** EU NSIs

**12** countries

**300** participants



# ENP-South: Capacity building through high-level training courses

Expertise France has been supporting the European Commission in helping ENP-South countries to improve their official statistics system through two successive ENP-South training programmes. Over 160 professionals from the ENP-South countries have been trained on various topics such as national accounts, geographic information system, structural business statistics, new technologies for data collection, and so on. These courses were issued from the ESTP programme, thanks to which beneficiary countries have updated their concepts and methodologies in order to meet EU and international standards.

The programmes focus on the transfer of practical skills and theoretical knowledge to be applied in the daily practice of data production and dissemination. It comprises courses in official statistics, IT applications, research and development and statistical management, with a balanced combination of theory and practice and a variety of approaches (group discussions, lectures and exercises). These training courses not only facilitate discussions and sharing of experiences and best practices, but provide the occasion for participants to discuss issues of common interest, thus strengthening regional statistical cooperation.



**BENEFICIARIES:** 10 Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Morocco, Syria (participation currently suspended) and Tunisia

**DONOR:** European Union

**BUDGET:** € 658,811 (Both phases)

**START DATE:** 2014 & 2016

**DURATION:** 4 years

**PARTNERS:** ICON

 **10** countries  
 **160** participants



**FOCUS EXPERT**

**Najwa YAACOUB, Statistician, Head of Department, National Principal Coordinator, Euro-Med statistical cooperation, Central Administration for Statistics of Lebanon**

*Attending training programmes on statistics is critical for Lebanon and the Mediterranean countries for two reasons:*

1) *Introducing junior staff to methods and technics specific to official statistics that cannot be learned in standard university programmes.*

2) *Keeping senior staff updated with European concepts and standards to ensure the production of high-quality statistics that is comparable and harmonised for the benefit of all users.*

*Taking part in the ENP-South countries programme is an opportunity for CAS to learn from the experience of the more advanced European statistical offices. It is a platform for national statistical offices to learn and to discuss how to overcome the challenges that they face while trying to improve the quantity and the quality of their statistical production, thereby addressing an increased demand for statistics in an environment where resources are limited.*

# 04 Twinnings

Twinning is a cooperation instrument created by the European Union in 1998 dedicated to institutional cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States and similar administrations of partner countries. It is a tool of principal interest to ensure a wide approach to given topics during the activities, thus helping ensure better levels of appropriation and dissemination within public administrations.



# Twinning's

Catherine LECUIT, Head of the Twinning Unit at Expertise France



“The success of a twinning relies on the availability and commitment of countries and their experts on both side.”

Twinning is a modality of intervention developed by the European Union in order to support institutional capacity building in its external action programmes. It was launched in May 1998 to accompany candidate or potential candidate countries (1) in their adaptation to EU procedures. In 2004, it was extended to the neighbourhood area (2) either to upgrade administrative capacities or to support the approximation of their regulations to those of EU Member States in the framework of cooperation or association agreements with the EU.

Twinning enable public experts from the Member States and their structures to exchange and build on good practices with experts from the beneficiary countries in a «peer to peer» logic. They favour an operational approach of a subject and make sure that the know-how is widely shared by different levels of staff involved in the reform processes tackled by the twinning.

The success of a twinning relies on the availability and commitment of countries and their experts on both side. (a) The experts from EU Member States are made available by their structures for the common work and transfer of expertise. In practice, the Member State seconds a long-term resident expert to the beneficiary country for the duration of the action. Located within the twin administration for an average of 2 years, the resident expert is to ensure that the work plan agreed upon by the parties is implemented and the expected results met. To this purpose he/she organises with his/her counterpart the succession of short-term expertise (missions of 4 to 5 days) in the form of counselling, training sessions, study visits and -more rarely- of internships. (b) The beneficiary country has to ensure that the resident counterpart is made available, along with relevant experts and staff, thereby enabling optimal ownership and dissemination of the project.

In order to support the Ministries and its partners, Expertise France has taken part in the implementation of this tool since its launch, managing around 250 twinning in the fields of expertise covered by the agency; i.e. mainly economy and finance, sustainable development, transport, employment, social protection, agriculture and governance. Currently, a dedicated team of 10 managers supports, within the Twinning Unit of Expertise France, their administrative, budgetary and financial implementation in close relation with the resident experts.

In the field of statistics, INSEE has been involved in 8 twinning, and is providing expertise in twinning led by other Member states.

(1) Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

(2) Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia, and Ukraine.



FOCUS EXPERT

Carla SAGLIETTI, Resident Counselor in Tunisia

*INSEE, leader of this European twinning project, mobilises a significant number of experts. This strong investment is justified by the relation and strong links between Tunisia and INSEE.*

*This ambitious project covers all of the institutional organisation and statistical production process. Its aim is on the one hand, to reinforce the governance of the statistical system and improve the statistical production and, on the other hand, to ensure a better communication and dissemination of the data.*

*Statistics Tunisia is highly motivated for this project to succeed. Indeed, in this new political context, statistics are considered as a crucial tool for the economic development and the democratic debate. Expectations vis-à-vis the INS and the statistical system are considerable. A specific feature of twinning projects is that they are essentially defined by and for the beneficiary country. This guarantees the full implication of the national institution(s) in the project, which by extension reinforces its chances of success.*

## Modernisation of the Tunisian statistical system

This twinning in the field of statistics is particularly important for Tunisia and for the definition and evaluation of policies. Reliable and available statistics are a prerequisite for the analysis and conception of sectoral policies, since they provide a sound basis for future decisions. It is also a crosscutting issue that enables to share comparable information with efficiency at a national, regional or international level.

In this new democracy, supporting the production of good quality, efficient and independent official statistics paves the way to promote the development of the country. The expertise provided by France (INSEE: about 50 experts for 675 man/days) and its partners (ISTAT and Statistics Lithuania) supports the following 5 project objectives:

- 1) Defining a legislative and institutional framework in order to improve public statistics: the experts have been supporting Statistics Tunisia in drafting a new law which will consolidate the position of Statistics Tunisia as an independent organisation;
- 2) Drafting a modernised programme for Statistics Tunisia: the architecture of the organisation has changed and a newly integrated information system has been defined. The new organisation will add to the efficiency of the production of periodic statistics (quarterly, annual, etc.);
- 3) Supporting the revision of the National Tunisian System of Accountancy: the Tunisian Accountancy now complies with SCN2008 and quarterly accounts are developed in line with production and expenditure. Moreover, other accounts like an account of environment are being developed;
- 4) Improving the indicators and statistics at the regional level: the lack of good quality statistics outside the main cities is one of the key issues faced by Statistics Tunisia. The twinning will make sure that Tunisia can benefit from finer indicators and statistical data at a regional level on employment, economic activities of enterprises, etc.;
- 5) Providing support to the diffusion and communication policy of Statistics Tunisia: a centralised data collection system will be set up and harmonised.

**BENEFICIARY:** Tunisia  
**DONOR:** European Union  
**BUDGET:** € 1,350,000  
**START DATE:** 2016  
**DURATION:** 2 years  
**PARTNERS:** INSEE, ISTAT, Statistics Lithuania

 **1.3M€**  
budget

 **50 experts**  
involved



# 05

## Meet the team



**Sandrine PRÉVOT** comes from Nantes, France. She holds a Master degree in International Cooperation from the University of Grenoble in 2011. Sandrine has a 4-years experience in working in international project management. She's worked on bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects within the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In February 2016, she joined the Unit of official statistics and development of Expertise France as a project manager. She is fluent in French, English and Italian.



**Caroline GUIDEMANN** grew up in Grenoble and graduated in International Cooperation from the Institute of Political Studies of Grenoble in 2011. After a two-year field experience as Junior Technical Assistant within the Ghanaian administration, she joined Expertise France (formerly Adetef) and The Unit of Official Statistics and development of Expertise France in June 2014. Caroline is a native French speaker and fluent in English.



**Siska Martina CAHYATI** grew up in Jakarta, Indonesia. She holds a Master degree in International Affairs specialized in economic development from the University of Paris I - Panthéon Sorbonne. Since 2012, she has worked within the Embassy of France in Indonesia and later with La Poste Group in Paris. Siska has joined the Unit of official statistics and development of Expertise France in January 2016. She is an Indonesian native speaker and fluent in English and French. She has a passion for financial inclusion, ecology, and animal rights.



**Nemdia DACENEY** is from Haiti and joined the Unit of official statistics and development of Expertise France in November 2016. She holds a Master's degree in Development Economics and International Projects Management from Université Paris-Est Créteil. Prior to joining Expertise France, Nemdia worked in the field of economic development and international cooperation in Haiti, the United States, France and Germany. She is passionate about gender equity, quality education and sustainable development. She is fluent in Haitian Creole, French, English and Spanish.



**Neha GRIVET** comes from La Rochelle, France. She obtained her Bachelor degree in Business in 2015. After an apprenticeship in the sector of investment-trade, she had spent one year in New Zealand before joining the Unit of official statistics and development at Expertise France in January 2017. She is a native French speaker and fluent in English and German.



**Alexis GHOSN** grew up in (France), and graduated in International Cooperation from the Institute of Political Studies of Aix-en-Provence in 2013. Prior to joining Expertise France, he worked in the field of Euro-Mediterranean integration and cooperation in Paris of capacity building for local authorities in Beirut. Alexis joined Expertise France and the Unit of Statistical Projects of Expertise France in January 2016. He is a fluent in French, English and Arabic.



**Clara GUILHEM** graduated in International Cooperation from the Institute of Political Studies of Lille. Prior to joining Expertise France, she worked for a private company managing large international cooperation projects. Clara joined Expertise France (formerly Adetef) as Project Manager in July 2014 and is currently working within the Regional Integration and Business Facilitation Unit. She is a native French speaker and fluent in English.



**Clara DELMON** grew up in Paris. She holds a Master degree in Political Science, with a major in International Affairs and Development Economics. After a first experience as a refugee caseworker in Amnesty International Australia, she spent 6 years as a policy officer for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specialized in development strategies. She joined Expertise France at the end of 2015 to manage projects in Public Finance Reform and Economic Statistics in Egypt, Tunis and Palestine. She is a native French speaker, fluent in English and Spanish, and currently learning Arabic.



**Beata SUSZTEROVA** is from Kosice, Slovakia. She holds a License degree in Economics and Management of Public Administration from the University of Presov, Slovakia and a Master degree in International Project Management from the University of Sorbonne. She has been working in international technical cooperation for 10 years and became Head of the Unit of official statistics and development within Expertise France in 2016. She is a native Hungarian and Slovak speaker and fluent in French and English.



**Jean PEYRONNAUD** comes from Nevers, France. After obtaining a Bachelor Degree in Political Science, he graduated in geo-economics at the Institute of Political Studies of Bordeaux. After an experience in the consulting domain, he joined the Unit of official statistics and development at Expertise France in January 2017. Jean is a native French speaker and fluent in English.



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