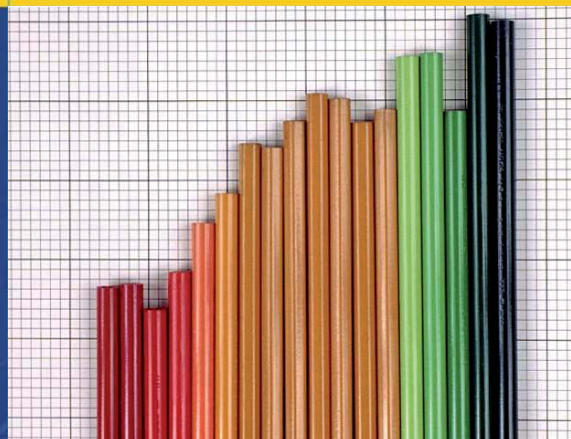


# Final Forum MEDSTAT II

Disseminating  
good practices  
in statistics



July 2009



**This publication has been drafted in the framework of MEDSTAT II, the Euro-Mediterranean regional statistical co-operation programme funded by the EU.**

## The *MEDSTAT* programme

The European Union's policy toward the Mediterranean region is shaped by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (or Barcelona Process) established as a result of the Barcelona Conference held in 1995. In the area of statistics, EU Member States and Mediterranean partners have intensified their relations since 1996 through the *MEDSTAT* regional statistical co-operation programme, financed under the MEDA regulation.

With a budget of EUR 20 million, *MEDSTAT I* was implemented from 1996 to 2003. *MEDSTAT II* was launched in 2006 for a 45-month period with a budget of EUR 30 million.

*MEDSTAT* aims to respond to the needs of the association agreements, particularly in relation to free trade, sustainable development and social development. It contributes to the supply of statistical information that is useful in monitoring the progress of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.

Its objective is to harmonise statistical methods in line with European and international norms and standards and to improve the coherence of data in the Mediterranean partner countries as well as their comparability with the statistical data of the EU and EFTA countries.

*MEDSTAT* also aims to improve the quality of services provided to users by the national statistics institutes and the other partner bodies involved in the production of statistics. The provision of up-to-date, reliable and relevant high-quality statistical data is vital for political decision making and to ensure good governance.

From December 1996 until March 2003, *MEDSTAT I* covered several statistical sectors. Among them, the environment was the subject of a second project, *MEDSTAT-Env II*, which was implemented between 2003 and 2006.

From January 2006 to November 2009, *MEDSTAT II* has worked on extending the qualitative work already done by organising training and by contributing technical resources to the information systems of national institutes and other statistics producers in the Mediterranean countries.

Special attention is paid to the coherence of data, to their harmonisation and dissemination in nine statistical sectors: trade in goods and services, transport, migration, tourism, the environment, national accounts, social statistics, energy and agriculture.

The programme currently involves 10 partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

**This publication can be consulted in English and French at the following website address:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/medstat>**

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## Disclaimer

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# Final Forum MEDSTAT II

## Disseminating best practices in statistics

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This document has been drawn up by Thierry Paccoud, Project Manager for Lot 2 (thematic sectors) of the MEDSTAT II programme, supported by contributions from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs), the programme's sectoral experts and the two 'wise men' called upon for the Final Forum, Messrs Hussein Sayed and Roger Edmunds.

The document presents the thinking behind the idea of the Final Forum for the programme and the relevant work carried out at regional level and in certain MPCs.

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## **MEDSTAT II Final Forum:**

<http://www.medstat-finalforum.org/>

### **A Final Forum: why?**

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership for statistics is now more than 10 years old. The MEDSTAT I and MEDSTAT II programmes have contributed to improving the statistical production of the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) and to increasing their comparability with European and international rules and standards in the key fields of economic and social statistics. This progress was built on the development of good practices in statistics that must now be put to good use and be widely disseminated throughout the region.

The purpose of the Final Forum of MEDSTAT II is to increase the visibility of these results which have been achieved through a joint effort and to share the benefits throughout the entire region.

### **What form does it take?**

It is a forum, since it depends on a network of exchanges and contacts among statisticians and users of statistics in the MPCs and EU/EFTA countries. This network has been built up step by step over the last ten years. The forum is not a physical meeting of all these actors but a collection of exchanges in the framework of a consistency established at regional level, to stimulate an ongoing debate on the statistical outputs of the MPCs and the use that is made of them.

It is a 'final' forum since it is designed for and takes place at the end of the MEDSTAT II project which finishes in the autumn of 2009; however it opens up prospects of continuity and consolidation of the dialogue and of cooperation on statistics between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

### **The toolbox: feeding the Final Forum**

The content of the forum is centred on identifying good practices in each of the MPCs, presenting their bases and the results obtained and ensuring that they can be replicated in other contexts.

Tools for presenting and disseminating statistical data and good practices in statistics have been brought together in a single online Final Forum platform which is open and accessible to all partners involved in the European-Mediterranean cooperation on statistics. Some of these tools were developed specifically by partner countries and/or the MEDSTAT II programme, while others are in the public domain. Moreover, talks are in progress with other international teams working on presentation and dissemination tools for statistical data. These products can be made available online.

We currently have videos of interviews with key people in the Euro-Mediterranean statistics partnership and other personalities from the world of statistics, animated visuals and graphics, more traditional publications produced by partner countries and the MEDSTAT II programme, photographs illustrating statistics in the region, and other technical documents, some drawn up during the programme and some not, but all dealing with technical aspects of statistical development in the region.

The great attraction of the toolbox is that the tools initially made available to all partners in the programme can be used, duplicated, modified or developed by users according to their specific needs.

### **What form does the Final Forum process take in the MPCs?**

So far four countries have established their national Final Forum processes: Egypt, Israel, Morocco and the occupied Palestinian territories. In each of these countries, the emphasis was placed on dialogue and cooperation within the national statistics system, to improve overall consistency, facilitate the smooth flow of information and enhance the quality of statistical products offered to users.

Each country then translated this central emphasis according to its own particular context: in Israel and Egypt, the Final Forum will mainly build on mastering new tools for the presentation and dissemination of statistical information; in Morocco on the establishment of more formal links between partners in the national statistical system for preparing complex statistical products such as the energy balances and the tourism satellite accounts; in the occupied Palestinian territories on making more use of administrative data for producing statistics.

**Synergies between national processes and regional relay**

Beyond the initial development phase of the toolbox, the MPCs will continue to share existing tools, or those that they have developed for their own needs, by putting them online on the regional platform, thanks to the toolbox's accessibility by all programme partners. At the end of the programme, the entire toolbox will be placed at the disposal of the EC and the MPCs.

As regards promoting activities, the national processes will gather users and media in each country and the exchanges that take place during these events can then be relayed by the programme at the regional level, thus enriching the debate on good statistical practices in the region.

## List of abbreviations

CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilisation & Statistics, Egypt
CD	Committee of Programme Directors
EC	European Commission
DS	Direction de la Statistique, Morocco
PG	Programme Partnership Group
ICBS	Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics
NSI	National Statistics Institute
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
MPC	Mediterranean Partner Country
NSS	National Statistics System

## Introduction

*“It is not a forum as such: there are several events being held in the Mediterranean countries and in Europe. And it is not final: the dissemination of good practices opens the way to a permanent dialogue between statisticians of the Euro-Mediterranean area.”*

### **Introductory note on the Final Forum – Internal MEDSTAT II document**

Most statisticians will have taken part in the Final Forum of a project at one time or another during their careers, and many will often have asked themselves what they were doing there and what they and the other participants were really going to get out of it.

Many projects nowadays, whether regional or bilateral, and whatever the subject or the sector, have their Final Forum. The objective is usually laudable: to bring together all the parties involved to take stock of what has been achieved and, less frequently, to discuss the future.

However, beyond this objective, more specific questions must be answered:

- Is it possible to let everyone speak? How to make a really useful summary of all the interventions?
- How many days are needed to discuss activities that in some cases have taken place over a number of years?
- What benefit do the partners really derive from the discussions and conclusions/recommendations?
- What signals are given to all those who have taken part in the project as to the lasting nature of the results?

MEDSTAT II was no exception to the rule, and its terms of reference envisaged two forums being held: one half-way through the programme and the other at the end. Bearing in mind the programme's complexity (twelve sectors of activity, nine of them thematic and three transversal, for ten partner countries), the questions listed above rapidly proved to be essential.

This document briefly describes how the programme developed the idea of the Final Forum and transformed it into a process that mainly took place at the level of each MPC, centred on identifying and widely disseminating good practices in statistics in the region.

Several aspects will be dealt with successively: how good practices were identified and validated in the region (section 2), how they were put to good use, in particular by making available an online toolbox (section 3) and the processes developed at national and regional levels (section 4). In an initial section (section 1), the context and the basic principles of the exercise will be discussed.

# Section 1: The context and the basic principles

## 1.1 *The context (what?)*

The MEDSTAT II programme was launched in January 2006, with several complementary objectives:

- to improve statistical output in terms of both its quality and its comparability with international and European standards,
- to strengthen both human and institutional capabilities within national statistics systems,
- to increase the visibility of statistics work in the region, in particular by holding two forums, one half-way through the programme and the other at the end.

In terms of working schedule, these three objectives were tackled by activities of the programme broken down appropriately: at first the stress was on the first two, through training courses, workshops, study visits and technical assistance missions. Statistics work is complex, and improving practices often requires changes that go beyond statistical techniques. In certain cases it involves changes in the rules, in others it involves changes to institutional mechanisms for the exchange of data and technical cooperation. As a result, the efforts made sometimes take a long time to produce effects. When quality products started to become available as a result of these efforts, attention naturally turned towards more specific support for the dissemination of statistical data.

Bearing in mind the history of Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation, and in particular its suspension for several years, the initial orientation phase of the MEDSTAT II programme had to be substantially reorganised, which took more time than had been envisaged. The launch of the programme activities was thus not totally effective until the beginning of 2007. In practice, holding a forum half way through the programme made little sense, and attention was therefore concentrated on the Final Forum.

The form of the Final Forum was the subject of a proposal during 2007, which was discussed with the European Commission (EC) and discussed at the meeting of the programme Partnership Group (PG) in September 2007. This proposal was subsequently presented at a meeting of the committee of Directors of the programme in February 2008. The Committee of Directors (CD) ratified the approach proposed.



## 1.2 *The messages/objectives (why?)*

The objective of the forums as initially envisaged was to maximise the value of the statistical information available in the MPCs, stressing in particular the progress made thanks to the support provided by the MEDSTAT II programme.

Several questions arose regarding the implementation of these forums:

- What would the real content of the discussions be?
- Which participants to invite?
- Which speakers/presenters to involve?
- What tangible outcomes to expect?

As regards the **content**, there was a serious risk that the discussions would be limited to the level of generalities, impeding progress on increasing awareness of the importance of statistics work. Meetings between users and producers generally end up with two main recommendations: “producers must take more account of users’ needs” and “users must take more care in expressing their requirements”. In the past, this type of conclusion has never allowed real improvements to be made. It is necessary to work on specific aspects of matching the supply and demand for statistics, relying on examples of good practices (“success stories”). As regards formulating and following up on a precise policy, what tools should be used to produce and disseminate the statistics so as to provide the most suitable response to the need for information, given the constraints of limited availability of resources and sometimes serious local constraints? If these tools exist somewhere, then they must be identified and disseminated.

There was also a serious risk that the discussion on the role of statistics would focus on information on democratic debate and thus clash with constraints of a political or strategic nature on the part of certain countries and/or participants. This would have had the greater disadvantage of preventing agreement on useful conclusions and achievable goals. Thus it seemed that it would be necessary to frame the discussions in terms of the aims of the MEDSTAT II programme, namely information on the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue.

Concerning the **participants**, the immediate response was easy to give but difficult to put into operation, particularly at regional level. There was talk of producers and users of statistics, and both lists were long. As regards producers, it was necessary to make sure that the National Statistics Institutes (NSI) and the other structures were represented. As regards users, several categories should be present: institutional users (national and international, technical structures – ministries – and political –parliaments, consultative committees –), research (universities, specialist centres), civil society (in this case, major companies, associations, trade unions, pressure groups, etc.) and the media.

In the framework of regional meetings, it was difficult, if not indeed impossible, to cover these different categories for all countries and all sectors. This came down to inviting hundreds of participants, and made any useful discussion impossible; but excluding some could create “diplomatic” problems. The perfect choice was practically impossible, and any choice was likely to lead to recriminations which could be counter-productive.

If one was to have a useful discussion and at the same time equitable treatment, it would be necessary to adopt a hierarchical representation approach. This implied relays between the national and regional discussions.

The question also arose as to the level of representation to be requested of participants. Several options could be envisaged: confining the debate to practitioners, or opening it up to decision makers, or mixing the two. Whatever the choice, it must be remembered that it is difficult to mobilise high-level participants, and that for such a mobilisation to be possible, they have to be offered a certain visibility.

The same question that arose regarding the level of participants applied also to that of the **speakers and presenters**, although it was easier to adjust the time they were present in the

forum. Nonetheless, who was to be invited? How to divide up the available time among them? What order should be followed for speaking, for the chairing of sessions, for technical presentations?

If it were to be confined to just disseminating the statistical products linked to the MEDSTAT II programme and producing and disseminating minutes of the debates, it was by no means certain that the Forum would have any medium- or long-term impact on the development of statistics, and there was a strong chance that it would be seen as just another forum. In order to be useful, the **results** would have to embody more tangible elements, and in particular very specific formulas for bringing statistics supply and demand closer together, as in the success stories mentioned above. One of the effective outcomes of the forum should then be the validation of the exportability of the formulas that had worked in certain contexts (countries or sectors) and their dissemination over as wide an area as possible.

These questions led to a different view being taken of the Forum, and to its being given a form and content more suited to the specificities of the programme.

Thus it is that the proposal made to the EC and to the MPCs focused on a series of activities rather than on a single event. The Final Forum thus became a process with its roots in the MPCs, carried out in a number of interlinked stages.

### **1.3 Implementation (how?)**

The approach put forward was implemented through a number of successively interlinked phases that were adjusted to suit the workflows of the partner countries. These phases were:

- Identifying good practices, particularly those developed with the support of the MEDSTAT II programme and the results obtained.<sup>1</sup> This phase was based on a national reflective process which the MPC's NSIs went through with their partners from the National Statistics Systems (NSS), producers and users. This was carried out in the countries in the form of a technical seminar/workshop bringing together some or all of the producer/user partners. The programme prepared a framework for reflection, which it shared with the partners and which served as a basis **for the discussions in the countries**. The programme completed this exercise with a reflective process for each of the sectors covered, whether one of the nine thematic sectors covered by the programme as described in the general presentation of the programme in the introduction to this publication, or one of the three transversal sectors.
- Validating good practices and the results of the programme<sup>2</sup> that lend themselves to replication. First of all this was a matter of determining whether among all the experiences identified by each country and in each sector some could be replicated in other contexts (sectors/countries) or whether the conditions in which they had taken place were too specific for that to happen. This work was done mainly at regional level by calling on two statistics technicians as "wise men".
- Preparing media tools to spread and promote good practices and results<sup>3</sup>. At this level, various options were envisaged in terms of media for dissemination: information notes and documents on the data and metadata made available in the framework of MEDSTAT II, press releases on the announcement/publication of certain key data, publications (of statistics and of information on statistics), video /DVD (interviews with personalities from both sides of the Mediterranean – users and producers – on the knowledge gained from MEDSTAT II, a short film on statistical work in the MPCs, a wrap-up on the development of statistics, etc.)

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<sup>1</sup> See section 2

<sup>2</sup> See section 2

<sup>3</sup> See section 3

- Communicating and widely disseminating the media tools<sup>3</sup>. The various information media and media tools were brought together on a single online platform: the Final Forum toolbox. This platform was made available step by step to all those involved in the programme, with links from and to the programmes' official website. Dissemination of the toolbox was first organised around partners in the countries, with information being provided to NSI Directors and the principal Coordinators in the MPCs. This information was later also made available to the national coordinators, then to the experts in EU and EFTA countries participating in the programme in one way or another.
- Organising national events for the promotion of statistical work<sup>4</sup>. These events took place in four countries, building on the results obtained by the national statistics systems in terms of production and quality, with special emphasis being placed on good practices. These events received support from the programme in various ways depending on their specific needs. The media instruments available in the toolbox were used to fuel and guide the discussions.
- Relaying the results of national events throughout the region<sup>5</sup>. The results of the national events are presented in this region-wide publication. Each national event was also the subject of a report to the other MPCs. During certain events, online discussions were held between the country concerned and Europe.

The overall process was carried out starting in the second quarter of 2007 [and continued until the end of the programme](#). It should remain active after the end of the programme, since the process aims by its very nature to make each user of the toolbox not just one of its beneficiaries but also one of its owners. Regular additions are made to the toolbox.

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<sup>4</sup> See section 4

<sup>5</sup> See section 4

## Section 2: Identification and validation of good practices

*“We generally recognise a good statistical practice when we see it, and for that we can use reference guidelines such as the United Nations’ Basic Principles of Official Statistics, or Eurostat’s Code of Practice, governing the way statistics offices operate and the workings of the systems for collecting, processing and disseminating statistics.*

*These guidelines lay down criteria that must be borne in mind in identifying a good practice and judging its relevance and its results. However, there is no absolute rule, and the criteria must be flexible and adaptable to the specific needs of each country.”*

### **Presentation of good practices – Final Forum toolbox**

#### **2.1 What is a good practice in statistics?**

The debate on what a good practice is was very much to the fore when the Final Forum initiative was launched. The original idea was not to classify the statistical practices in use in the MPCs, and the concept of “best practice” was therefore quickly jettisoned. Nor was it the original idea to focus exclusively on practices developed thanks to the MEDSTAT programme. Identifying MEDSTAT’s direct contribution to improvement in practices in the MPCs would have been practically impossible. The programme therefore focused on the notion of “good practices” and their dissemination as widely as possible in the region.

A good practice (or a success) was therefore defined as a set of statistical operations and results leading to an appreciable improvement in the quality and availability of the information necessary for the development of the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. Initial assessments were based on the basic principles governing official statistics (those of the United Nations in particular), but also wherever possible on users’ perceptions as to whether they were better provided with relevant information.

There were thus two criteria used in the assessment:

- improvement in methods and processes leading to the production of quality statistical information. A good practice therefore implies an advance in technical terms (statistical techniques), regulatory terms (legal and standards environment) and/or in terms of the organisation of the statistical system (institutional environment, processes) leading to better quality of the final product,
- the response to a real need for statistical information on the part of users. A good practice implies that the statistical product is actually used and corresponds to a demand (expressed or not).

These two criteria are not always met at the same time, because there are still some statistical products that are produced without taking account of the use to which they are to be put, and there are still some requests for statistical information that are not effectively covered. This approach, while perfectly suitable for working on the thematic statistical sectors, was difficult to apply to statistical work that does not lead to a tangible and visible result, such as that on training or the improvement of information systems. These two fields indeed produce results that affect a country’s entire statistical output, and yet there is no direct link with their use.

## 2.2 *How can good practices be identified in the context of a regional project?*

The process must cover two main steps:

- first, the actual identification of good practices. This step must follow a common framework for all countries,
- next, the validation of the good practices identified. This step comprises two complementary components: technical validation (yes, it's a good statistical practice!) and validation of its replicability (yes, it will produce the same effects elsewhere!).

### **The actual identification**

A question matrix was first prepared, to establish in a more logical manner the links between statistical products identified as good practices, their use, and the operations enabling them to be produced. This question matrix is shown in appendix 1, and is based on six main elements:

- An initial description of the sector of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and of the overall context of cooperation concerned by the good practice. This is a matter of establishing the link with statistical demand and defining the framework in which the good practice will help to better delineate the overall policy context,
- A description of the problem that requires the availability of better statistical information. **The link established previously with statistical demand** is here examined in more detail, and the required information content defined,
- A description of the work carried out by statistics to respond to the information problem. This is the technical part of a good practice, with details of the operations leading to the production of the figures,
- The specific contribution of MEDSTAT II to this work. This part aims to identify the extent to which the programme has led to improvements, particularly as regards the production of the figures. As noted above, this aspect was not considered as essential in the process, and good practices were identified where there was no direct support from the programme,
- A description of the tangible results obtained in terms of quality and availability of statistical information. This involves putting the technical characteristics of the good practice concerned into words,
- Lastly, a description of the experience leading to the assessment of its replicability (or otherwise) and the possible paths to be followed for such replication. This involves assessing whether the good practice that has been identified is too closely linked to the context in which it has been developed to be exportable elsewhere, or whether it contains sufficient features to give it a more general character.

Two theoretical examples were developed, for external trade statistics and migration statistics, in order to illustrate the logic of the process. This framework and the examples were subsequently proposed to the MPCs and to the programmes' sectoral experts (thematic and transversal).

### **Validation**

Technical validation is an important step. It involves determining whether the good practices proposed actually meet the criteria. To do this, an experienced view from outside is required. It must be from outside in order to bring an unbiased and objective view to bear on the logic put forward in support of the good practice. It must in particular ensure that both criteria are met. It must be experienced, because at the same time a mastery of statistical work is necessary in order to be able to judge the technical quality of the proposal, and experience in the field is needed to be able to compare what is proposed with other situations.

This technical validation must then be completed by a detailed examination of the potential exportability of the proposal. Two readings are thus required: one at country and/or sector level, and another by sector. The first is to make sure of the role played by the specific national context in the good practice that has been identified; the second, to assess whether it can be exported to another sector. Finally, these two readings have to be reconciled so as to arrive at an overall assessment as to whether the good practice that has been identified can actually be replicated elsewhere.

The regional nature of the programme enabled the validation of good practices to be well taken in hand, based on nearly fifteen years of cooperation (since the launch of MEDSTAT I), as a result of which the national statistics systems and their constraints and potentials are well known. This made it easier to assess the exportability of practices and methods.

### **2.3 *The process followed in the framework of the MEDSTAT II project***

#### **Timeline**

The process was launched at the programme's group partnership meeting held in September 2007. Once the question matrix had been drawn up, it was sent initially to the principal coordinators of the programme and to the Directors of statistics in the MPCs. E-mails were sent for this purpose, first on 16 October 2007 to present the overall process and again on 21 November 2007 to ask for contributions from each MPC.

Only five countries responded to the call for contributions before the February 2008 meeting of the Committee of Directors of the Programme: the occupied Palestinian territories on 14 December 2007, Egypt on 16 December 2007, Israel on 14 January 2008, Tunisia on 15 January 2008 (though only on the agriculture sector) and Morocco on 11 February 2008. During the meeting of the Committee of Directors, it was decided that the work would advance for the time being with just the countries that had contributed in a structured manner consistent with good practices, and that this would be by way of a test. It was also decided that the technical validation of good practices would be carried out with the help of two "wise men", experienced in statistics, one from a Mediterranean partner country and the other from a European country.

March and April were devoted to identifying these two "wise men". Messrs Hussein Sayed (Egypt) and Roger Edmunds (UK) were selected for this work. Their profiles can be seen on the Final Forum toolbox platform (see section 3 following).

Between May and June 2008, the thematic sectors provided their contributions regarding good practices. Thus all country and thematic sector contributions were passed to the wise men for examination. They first worked on better definitions of the criteria for assessing statistical practices. Their initial conclusions were discussed with the EC at the kick-off meeting which was held in Brussels on 20 June 2008. The MPCs were informed of the meeting's conclusions by e-mail on 2 July 2008.

During the summer, the NSIs of Malta and Cyprus were asked to make a contribution to good practices in the region. These contributions were provided on 4 July 2008 by Malta in the field of agriculture and on 31 July by Cyprus in the field of the environment (sub-field: water).

A second technical meeting took place on 4 and 5 September 2008, again in Brussels. The transversal sectors in turn provided their contribution to good practices.

The four test countries received the initial conclusions of the wise men's work in an e-mail sent on 18 September 2008. Visits to discuss these conclusions and the implementation of the Final Forum process in the four countries were then organised in October 2008 (Morocco and the occupied Palestinian territories), November 2008 (Israel) and January 2009 (Egypt). The conclusions of the "wise men" were to be presented to all the MPCs at the PG meeting that was to have been held in January 2009. Unfortunately this meeting had to be postponed

to June 2009 and it was not until then that the work on good practices was explained and presented to all the Directors who were present.

All the documentation concerning this work is available from the EC's CIRCA document library (<http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/Home/main>).

### **Contributions by MPCs**

Preparation of the MPCs' contributions to the identification of good practices was carried out in a rather diverse manner, but in general the processes were built on the following components:

- A request by the principal programme Coordinator by sector. At this stage, some countries held initial meetings with national coordinators in order to discuss the exercise as a whole and to ensure that what was being asked for was well understood, while others left more margin for manoeuvre to the sectors,
- A reflective process for each sector. Some countries carried out extensive consultations with their non NSI partners, others did not, depending also on the sectors,
- Summary and reconciliation work by the principal coordinators before dispatch to the programme.

### **Results**

The results of the work of the wise men are shown in Appendix 2 to this document. They are also available on the Final Forum platform toolbox (see hereafter, section 3). Five (5) main good practices were identified as being widely replicable in the region and having potential to make a considerable contribution to improving the quality of statistical products. They concern the following fields:

- 1. External trade statistics: the analysis of imbalances in international trade, based on cooperation between the institutions responsible for external trade statistics with a view to improving the quality of the data,
- 2. Collaboration among different ministries (inter-administrative cooperation) in order to boost the quality and relevance of statistics. The tourism sector provides an example of interconnection helping development and analysis of relevant new statistical series. A second example is provided by the use of new sources of data to keep tabs on population movements at borders, used by ministries of the interior in order to improve statistics on migration,
- 3. Post-census surveys aimed at assessing both the coverage and the quality of the data collected through national censuses. As well as producing clear indicators regarding these aspects, this also leads to useful dialogue on the quality of the various statistical operations,
- 4. Harmonisation of key social indicators – the development of a range of consistent indicators accepted by all concerning the social fabric throughout the region,
- 5. Synergies between sectors, leading to better understanding of problems with multidimensional implications. Examples were taken from the environment, energy and transport sectors.

## Section 3: the toolbox

*“A **toolbox** is a box enabling one to arrange one’s tools in an orderly manner so as to protect them and transport them more easily.”*

**Source: Wikipedia**

### 3.1 Principles and development

The Final Forum toolbox was conceived in order to allow different types of material to be stored, and to provide access for as many users as possible. Access is free, as is the use of the tools. It is designed to be developed continuously, being fed as and when new tools are constructed, added and shared by the MPCs and their partners in the programme.

Thus it is not a closed toolbox reserved for exclusive uses: it is rather a very open and evolving product. It is not simply a store, but is there for its contents to be used to increase awareness of good statistical practices and of statistics in general.

Its construction was guided by three main principles:

- **Accessibility.** This principle dictated not only the solution chosen for user entry to the toolbox, but also its internal organisation. Concerning the former point, the toolbox is on a single stand-alone website with no access restrictions such as password or user name, with a direct, simple URL: <http://www.medstat-finalforum.org/>. It is thus accessible to all, without limitation. Concerning its internal organisation, we opted for ease of use: one access portal and thematic tabs containing the material. There is nothing very sophisticated, and scanning is linear.
- **Continuous development.** This simple structure allows the toolbox to evolve, and above all it facilitates uploading of new material developed in the MPCs where widespread dissemination is sought. Therefore it is never finished, but is constantly being enriched. This is an essential point in the approach, which aims to encourage contributions by all the partners involved,
- **Use of content.** The content is free, and may be downloaded at any time by users without restriction. The material is placed online to be used for different purposes, such as promoting statistical work, providing information on the programme and its results, preparing arguments or technical notes on statistics. For greater ease of use, links are provided to the websites of the major software applications used to prepare and needed in order to use the material available in the toolbox.



The toolbox was developed in a number of stages:

- Beta version presented to the European Commission in September 2008,
- Initial accessible online version from January 2009.

Since then, it has been regularly updated.

### **3.2 Contents of the toolbox**

The Final Forum toolbox contains various multimedia materials that have been developed by the programme itself, and links to other pre-existing tools.

As regards the original materials, the programme stressed three specific tools:

- A series of animations/videos entitled “Reading statistics”. The objective is to provide, in a few key figures, the essential information on a sector by presenting them in a very visual and simple way. An example was built around statistics on external trade in goods. The animation only lasts about two minutes, during which time five key figures are presented. Its target audience is broad, with no particular knowledge of statistics. In the toolbox, users can also find the scenario/script on which the technicians based their concept work. It is shown by way of illustration, as a possible framework for any similar exercises. Other examples will gradually be added to this series,
- A series of animations/videos entitled “The making of statistics”. The objective of this series is to explain in detail what is behind certain statistical data. The example developed by the programme likewise concerns statistics on external trade in goods, and looks at them from the point of view of asymmetries: What are they? How do we deal with them? What benefit is to be had from analysing them? Examples are given from exercises carried out during the programme. The video lasts a little longer than the previous series, and is aimed at an audience somewhat more familiar with statistics. In the toolbox, users can also find the scenario/script of the video for this series.
- A set of videos presenting the programme in some of its components. These videos were made by the personnel involved in the programme in various capacities: Executives of the European Commission (EuropeAid, in charge of the contractual monitoring of the programme, and Eurostat, in charge of technical monitoring), Directors General and statistics executives from the MPCs, experts from the programme’s various “lots”. A “teaser” was made, based on these videos, enabling the programme’s key objectives to be quickly presented.

All of the above is presented in a harmonised manner, with a common musical theme, an introductory animation and a concluding sequence. The musical theme was chosen based on suggestions made by certain MPCs.

In addition to the videos/animations, the programme has also prepared other tools, among which one might mention:

- An animated graphics framework. The aim of this tool is to present statistical data in 3-D in a flexible, moving frame. Thus, one can enter series of data (up to four) over several years (up to ten) and view or present them from several different angles. This can be used alone (to present data) or as part of the production of an animation or video,
- Notes and summaries. Several documents have been produced to present certain aspects or specific results of the programme. Some of these documents are press releases, others are simply memos,
- Statistical profiles by country. Via access by country, the toolbox provides access to standard tables by country, compiled in a structured and uniform way. They present

key information for each of the sectors covered by the programme. In due course these tables will be updated, following each exchange of information between the MPCs and the European Commission.

The toolbox also contains material that did not originally come from the programme but for which links are provided. This has been done for several types of material:

- Videos to enhance awareness about statistical work. Agreements have been reached with two specific partners: Paris 21 and inWEnt. Links have been set up to the specific products developed by these two institutions,
- Regional videos and images. These come mainly from the EC's library, but also from the MPCs,
- Download links for the software applications needed in order to use these materials.

A list of the contents of the toolbox is given in appendix 3.

### **3.3 *Disseminating and getting the most out of the toolbox***

#### **Dissemination**

The option chosen for putting the toolbox online was to work in concentric circles of potential users, progressively enlarging the circles:

- The first circle comprised the European Commission and the Directors and Principal National Coordinators of the MPCs. Information was sent by e-mail on the uploading of a beta version, with a follow-up to discuss first impressions,
- The second circle took in all national coordinators in the MPCs. They acted as relays in each of their respective sectors and countries, passing on information about the existence of the website,
- Lastly, the third circle concerned European experts who had been involved in one way or another in implementing the programme (in technical assistance visits, receiving study visits, etc.). They also passed on the information to other potential users.

Beyond this approach, the Final Forum website and the toolbox were presented at special events involving statisticians from the region. For example, the programme's Lot 2 had presentation booths at the World Water Forum (Istanbul, 16 - 22 March 2009), the Fourth Arab Forum on Statistical Capacity Building (Cairo, 25 - 27 May 2009), the third Maghreb Conference on Statistics (Algiers, 6 - 8 July 2009) and the two events of the Final Forum in Morocco and the occupied Palestinian territories (see section 4).

Certain specific materials contained in the toolbox met with greater acclaim than others. In particular, certain animations and videos were posted on YouTube by users in the MPCs.

#### **Getting the most out of the toolbox**

The contents of the toolbox are available for use in pursuit of various objectives: direct use to prepare a presentation or report on statistics in the region, indirect use to develop original tools that are better suited to a particular context. The real value of these contents is seen first and foremost through their use in the MPCs. One of the major problems with the use of certain materials in the toolbox is the size of the files to be downloaded. This applies particularly to videos and animations. Difficult choices had to be made between image quality (resolution) and file size.

The ongoing enrichment of the toolbox by users is another prerequisite for its survival. The technical developments under way in the field of statistical data presentation will lead to more

and more innovations. It is essential for these innovations to be shared throughout the region so as to maximise return on the necessary investments, but also to avoid duplication of effort.

## Section 4: National and regional processes for the Final Forum

When the Final Forum was first thought of, the stress was placed on the benefits that the MPCs' NSIs would be able to derive from the process for the visibility of their products and for the strengthening of the dialogue with all their partners in their respective statistical systems. MEDSTAT II support was therefore directed towards helping the MPCs in these two fields. Preliminary visits took place from October 2008 to January 2009 to discuss the programme's support modes. In parallel with this, the question of how the programme could relay the results obtained at regional level was also tackled with the MPCs and with the European Commission. A diagram of the overall process is shown in appendix 4.

### 4.1 Processes in the MPCs

Only four countries - Egypt, Israel, Morocco and the occupied Palestinian territories – participated fully in the exercise during MEDSTAT II. The activities carried out in these four countries were the subject of regular information and of a detailed presentation to all MPC statistics managers. Other partner countries have expressed interest in carrying out similar exercises in the future.

Two main types of process were followed with the MPCs:

- a process based on strengthening local capabilities (internal to the NSIs), developing tools for presenting data to make them more attractive and organising regular meetings with users. This process was followed by Egypt and Israel,
- a process based on a national event during which the latest statistical output was presented to users and NSI partners. This process was followed by Morocco and the occupied Palestinian territories.

These various national exercises are presented hereunder. All the documents relating to these national processes are available either on the online Final Forum platform (<http://www.medstat-finalforum.org/>) or from the European Commission's CIRCA document library (<http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/Home/main>).

#### Egypt

The Final Forum programme in Egypt was built on the creation of internal capabilities regarding the presentation of statistical data. The objective was to bring a group of CAPMAS executives up to speed so that they could develop by themselves tools that were suited and relevant to the context of the country. The management of CAPMAS subsequently established price statistics and the presentation of the consumer price index in a monthly press conference as the priority working target.

The programme provided various complementary support items for this purpose:

- an awareness session on the latest tools for presenting statistical data. A seminar, led by a member of the MEDSTAT team, took place in Cairo on 15 and 16 April 2009 at which experiments under way elsewhere in the world in the field of handling and presentation of statistical data were presented and discussed,
- Training specific to the *Flash* software application. The seminar was followed by an on-site technical training session for the group of executives from the CAPMAS (from 22 to 24 April 2009). The training focused on drawing and animation techniques (creating images, generating animations, integrating media in animations),
- Local technical support for drawing animations. The local trainer involved in the "Flash" training subsequently worked with the CAPMAS on an animation project in the field of presentation of price statistics. Other subjects will be tackled later, in

particular the results of the quarterly employment and unemployment surveys and the results of the work done on constructing energy balances.

The technical fact sheet drawn up at the time of the preparatory visit in January 2009 is available on the Final Forum platform, under the "Other documents" tab.

### **Israel**

The Final Forum programme aimed at going through an internal reflective process on a number of aspects covering communication and dissemination within the ICBS: first a reflection on the tools used to present the ICBS's products, particularly through the institute's website, followed by a reflection on the relevance of the statistical output with regard to topical subjects.

The programme's support in these two fields took several forms:

- As in the case of Egypt, an awareness seminar on the latest tools for presenting statistical data. This seminar was an opportunity for the sectoral and technical IT teams to meet and discuss together in a very specific way with a view to improving the dissemination of ICBS products. This seminar took place from 23 to 26 March 2009,
- A training course over several days was then held between 29 June and 27 July 2009. Given by a local "Flash" specialist, it strengthened the ICBS' capabilities in this field,
- A series of seminars was envisaged, aimed at getting a better grip on the supply of and demand for statistics on a number of specific subjects. The subjects chosen for a first approach were: globalisation, demography and migration, sustainable environment, micro-economics, social surveys and highway accidents. MEDSTAT contributed to that on globalisation statistics. The results of these seminars must subsequently be translated into specific words for use in the meetings between the ICBS and the press. These meetings are aimed at increasing journalists' understanding of what lies behind the data.

The technical fact sheet drawn up at the time of the preparatory visit in January 2009 is available on the Final Forum platform, under the "Other documents" tab.

### **Morocco**

The Final Forum programme was based on a two-day event (23 and 24 June 2009) in Rabat organised by the *Haut-Commissariat au Plan* of Morocco (the supervisory body of the statistics directorate). The programme for this event, entitled "A statistical system working to international standards, serving an advanced Euro-Mediterranean partnership", is shown in appendix 5. The main objective was to present the latest data produced by the DS to a wide audience of users and partners (particularly on certain subjects such as the national accounts, external trade statistics, social statistics, energy statistics, business statistics and tourism statistics) and to engage in a dialogue on the relevance of these products relative to the demand for statistical information.

The programme's support for this event took several forms:

- Providing experts from Europe (INSEE-France and INE-Spain) and the Mediterranean area (NSI-Tunisia),
- Providing experts from the programme for certain subjects (social statistics, energy statistics),
- Presenting MEDSTAT II publications and the toolbox,
- Helping with the technical preparation of the event,
- Relaying the results of the event through the programme's website and the Final Forum platform,
- Organising an informative seminar on tools for presenting and disseminating data.

Altogether some 250 people attended the event.

The technical fact sheet drawn up at the time of the preparatory visit in January 2009 is available on the Final Forum platform, under the "Other documents" tab.

### **Occupied Palestinian Territories**

The PCBS built the programme for the Final Forum around a conference entitled "*Challenges and future perspectives of the Palestinian Statistical System*" held in Ramallah on 22 and 23 June 2009. The objective of this event was to present the brand new national strategy for developing statistics, to discuss more particularly the aspect associated with the use of administrative data for statistics and to present the work in progress on population statistics and statistics on the situation of women and children. The event programme and a presentation sheet are contained in appendix 6.

The programme's support for this event took several forms:

- Providing experts from Europe (Statistics Lithuania, Portuguese Ministry of Health, ADETEF-France) and the Mediterranean area (Department of Statistics - Jordan),
- Providing experts from the programme for some of the topics (data validation),
- Presenting MEDSTAT II publications and the toolbox,
- Helping with the technical preparation of the event.

Altogether some 500 people attended the event.

The technical fact sheet drawn up at the time of the preparatory visit in January 2009 is available on the Final Forum platform, under the "Other documents" tab.

## **4.2 Regional relay**

Several ideas were explored for relaying the results of the national processes to the region and disseminating them as widely as possible among the programme partners. So far it has proved possible to put only a few of them into practice. The programme's objective is to promote exchanges and dissemination of good practices, and the toolbox is now one of the instruments for achieving this.

### **Dissemination of information on Final Forum events via EC websites**

The regional relay that the programme can contribute to the Final Forum events in the MPCs consists of the information given on the EC's specialised websites, in particular the communiqués of the EuroMed Info Centre, but also on the websites of the EC Delegations concerned. This dissemination boosts the visibility of the results of the Final Forum events and thus of the statistics systems of the countries concerned.

### **Inclusion of results of events and work on presentation of data on the Final Forum toolbox platform.**

This is the natural mission of the toolbox, whose very existence is aimed at storing and sharing the MPCs' achievements in this field. Thus, various documents and materials developed in preparation for the events in Morocco and in the occupied Palestinian territories have been included in the toolbox. Similarly, the interviews, videos and other products made during the events have also been brought together. Links to national websites or other materials uploaded by these two countries have also been made available in the toolbox. This addition to the toolbox was the subject of an informative e-mail to the principal partners of the programme and in particular the national coordinators in the other countries.

Other partners have also received this information (notably experts from the European countries involved in the programme).

This enrichment of the toolbox must not be confined to recent events in the framework of MEDSTAT II. It must be pursued beyond the programme by integrating in particular the results of the innovations that will be introduced in terms of tools for presenting statistical

data. Initially, the products developed in Egypt and in Israel will be the subject of information via the toolbox. In due course, the toolbox will become a space for the exchange and dissemination for these technical developments.

#### **Information on the Final Forum process on the programme's website**

The information available on the Final Forum online platform is relayed to the MEDSTAT programme's official website. The platform can be accessed via the website, and the website contains certain founding elements of the Final Forum.

#### **Contribution to the development of new tools for presenting data**

Statistics generally rate rather low in terms of visibility and attractiveness, particularly for an audience that is not familiar with the operations and methods behind the production of the figures. Making these statistics attractive requires an investment in data presentation techniques. There are currently a large number of experiments under way in this field. The graphic animations developed by MEDSTAT II on external trade statistics (the "reading statistics" and "the making of" series in the toolbox) are merely examples among many others. The programme is in touch with other technicians also working on these dossiers and plays a relay role between these technicians and the MPCs. This relay role took shape during the seminars organised by the programme in Egypt and in Israel, but also with the presentations made in Morocco and in the occupied Palestinian territories on the new tools used to present data. A reference list on these fields was circulated among the MPCs and is available on the EC's CIRCA document database, which can be found at (<http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/Home/main>)

#### **Publication of the programme for the Final Forum**

This publication is also a way of passing on information on the latest developments regarding the making available and dissemination of Euro-Mediterranean statistics. This publication has been distributed among the MPCs. It is also available on the MEDSTAT II programmes' website.

#### **Regional press conference**

When the Final Forum process was set in motion, it had been envisaged that a regional press conference would be held. In the end this option was not pursued because it involved a substantial investment on the part of the project in European press and media, with uncertain benefits. Statistics is not a very attractive subject for the European press, and we would have had to present scenarios with a more "political" slant, whereas MEDSTAT II is a strictly technical programme.

At some time in the future, when Euro-Mediterranean statistics are able to present a large number of positive results, this regional press conference could become topical for the programme.

## Conclusions

The Final Forum exercise as a whole enabled progress to be made in several complementary ways:

- Identifying and sharing good practices in the field of statistics in the region. Each MPC had time to reflect on its methods and practices and to think about their impact and possible exportation. In this sense it is a natural result of regional cooperation and exchanging experiences. What is well done in one country and/or sector must be capable of benefiting other countries/sectors. It is an assurance of economies of scale and a means of limiting the duplication of efforts,
- The use of good statistical practices and their results to increase the visibility of statistics as a whole and to promote it usefully. Promoting statistics is only really effective if tangible, successful results can be shown. Good practices are examples of success and their results can provide fuel for a useful debate between statisticians and their users,
- The development of tools to make the presentation and dissemination of statistical information more attractive. Presenting good practices with modern, innovative tools that catch the attention is an additional way of assuring that statistics are well promoted. The programme has promoted these new tools widely and has contributed through its work to the construction of animations which are examples of what can be done.

On these points, the programme certainly contributed much more than two regional meetings, one half-way through the programme and one at the end, could have done. Admittedly so far only four countries have been effectively involved by way of a test. The test was conclusive as regards the different routes that have been explored: a gradual strengthening of technical capabilities in data presentation in Egypt and Israel, and an event at which to present the results of statistics in Morocco and in the occupied Palestinian territories. The first route takes longer to produce effects, but it will enable the development of real in-house capabilities that can be put to good use in improving the dissemination of statistical data and users' understanding of them. The second route is more immediate and made possible a first encounter between statisticians and their partners based on the presentation of the results of good practices. In both cases, a step has been taken towards increasing the visibility of statistics and encouraging greater dialogue between the NSIs and their partners in the national statistics systems.

Concerning good practices and their identification, there is certainly much to be gained from putting in place procedures enabling the exercise to be regularly repeated. As the "wise men" stressed, **identifying good practices is itself a good practice**. It is also one of the essential cornerstones of a regional South/South cooperation in which the exchange of experiences is to be as effective as possible.



## ***Appendices***

1. Question matrix for identifying good practices
2. Results of the work of the “wise men” on identifying good practices in the region
3. Contents of the toolbox
4. The overall process
5. Programme for the Final Forum event in Morocco
6. Programme for the Final Forum event in the occupied Palestinian territories

## APPENDIX 1: question matrix for identifying good practices

### Final Forum

#### Description of good practices

Sector of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and overall context of the cooperation concerned	Problem requiring availability of better statistical information	Work done by statistics to respond to the information problem	Specific contribution of MEDSTAT II to this work	Tangible results obtained in terms of quality and availability of statistical information	Characteristics of the experience enabling or not replication to be envisaged, and possible paths
<p><b>Example 1</b></p> <p>External trade in goods</p> <p>Establishment of a free trade area around the Mediterranean</p>	<p>Statistical data on imports and exports between MPCs and EU countries do not match, and numerous asymmetries have been identified in trade by country and type of goods.</p> <p>Final monitoring of progress made towards a free trade area is made difficult by the divergences in figures.</p>	<p>Detailed analysis of the asymmetries to identify their causes, whether they be methodological (differences of field, geographical allocation or nomenclature, technical (processing of data) or institutional.</p> <p>Working together with all the partners involved to improve the situation.</p>	<p>Technical support in the form of specialist expertise: carrying out diagnostics on the asymmetries, proposals and recommendations, support for coordination among the partners involved, both at national level and between partner countries (Jordan, Algeria), sub-regional approach for Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the occupied Palestinian territories.</p>	<p>Technical explanation and, where possible, elimination of the main asymmetries.</p> <p>Improvement in quality of statistics in this field.</p> <p>Secondary effect on the structure of production of external trade statistic and on coordination among the partners involved (NSI, Customs in particular).</p>	<p>The technical diagnostics on the asymmetries detected is easy to implement, and could be carried out in all countries in the area.</p> <p>The effective implementation of the recommendations requires a commitment from the partners involved, particularly in terms of available resources and cooperation among administrations.</p>

Sector of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and overall context of the cooperation concerned	Problem requiring availability of better statistical information	Work done by statistics to respond to the information problem	Specific contribution of MEDSTAT II to this work	Tangible results obtained in terms of quality and availability of statistical information	Characteristics of the experience enabling or not replication to be envisaged, and possible paths
<p><b>Example 2</b></p> <p>Migration</p> <p>Improving mutual knowledge about migratory flows in the Mediterranean area</p>	<p>At present migratory flows are not clearly identified or monitored by NSIs, who do not have their own research tools for this subject. Migration surveys are expensive and difficult to conduct regularly. Moreover, migration modules in surveys and censuses do not allow the phenomenon to be studied on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Some very useful information on migration is collected by other institutions (in particular Ministries of the Interior), which are not in the habit of using them for statistical purposes or from the point of view of international comparability. Agreements concerning the use of these administrative data have been signed with the institutions producing them and it is now possible to reconcile these sources with the more traditional statistical sources of the NSIs (censuses, surveys, etc.)</p>	<p>Facilitating discussions between the NSI and other national institutions, either through visits by experts in situ or by organising study visits in the countries where these exchanges take place and produce results in order to heighten awareness on the part of the partners involved. (Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria). Facilitating discussions and exchanges among NSIs and the other national agencies of the various MPCs by taking part in study visits and other events.</p>	<p>Administrative data are more widely accessible and more systematically brought together by the NSIs' partners in the sector. More relevant tables, richer in information, are now produced for the sector. In certain countries agreement has been reached on the regular provision of the individual files from the register of residence permits on the part of the Ministry of the Interior to the NSI (Morocco) or even the joint compilation of individual data on border crossings (Lebanon).</p>	<p>Cooperation between partner institutions is essential, and must be prepared for by in-depth awareness campaigns with these partners (discussions, study visits, etc.)</p> <p>Discussions and exchanges among countries must subsequently be favoured, taking account of similarities in progress on activities.</p>

## APPENDIX 2: Results of the work of the “wise men” on identifying good practices in the region



MEDSTAT II is the second phase of a programme funded by the European Commission and managed by EuropeAid (January 2006 to September 2009), aimed at strengthening statistical systems in the Mediterranean region, and more specifically

### In ten countries in the region:

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- occupied Palestinian territories
- Syria
- Tunisia
- Turkey

### in nine statistical sectors:

- External trade in goods and services
- Transport
- National Accounts
- Energy
- Social statistics
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Migration
- Environment

The main objectives of MEDSTAT II are to improve the quality of statistical services and data so as to facilitate availability of the information needed to implement and monitor the association agreements with the MPCs and to provide users with data that are up to date, reliable and relevant for decision making and good governance.

One of the contributions of the programme is the identification of good statistical practices, which must be widely disseminated throughout the region in order to be replicated.

### **An approach to identifying good practices in statistics, by Messrs Hussein Sayed and Roger Edmunds**

We generally recognise a good statistical practice when we see it, and therefore we can use reference guidelines such as the United Nations’ Basic Principles of Official Statistics or Eurostat’s Code of Practice, governing the way statistics offices operate and the workings of the systems for collecting, processing and disseminating statistics. These guidelines lay down a set of criteria which it is useful to bear in mind when seeking to identify a good practice and its relevance and results.

However, there is no absolute rule, and the criteria must be flexible and adaptable to the specific needs of each country. In practice, it is very difficult to assess and compare a series of approaches to compiling statistics in order to decide which ones have particular merit, and certainly so in the context of national systems. There is unavoidably a degree of subjectivity in the procedure, and choices reflect personal judgements by those making the selection, even when this procedure is handled in

the most competent and objective way possible. In this particular case, it is reassuring to see that the two consultants, while making their selections independently of one another, have arrived at very similar results. This gives an indication of the convergence of the criteria adopted and of the objectivity of their work. That said, other people, and in particular the partner countries, might have made (and may in the future make) other choices, based on different criteria and priorities.

The other aspect that had an influence on the work was the range of proposals put forward by the MPCs. Indeed, not all countries submitted proposals and it may well be that other examples of good practice remain to be disseminated, among the countries that have yet to respond.

### ***Selection criteria***

The consultants based their work on the principle according to which national statistics offices provide a service: they exist not for themselves but to inform their government, businesses and the public at large about social and economic conditions in the society in which they live. That means that official statistics must be relevant to the questions faced by their country and they must be used by the people who make policies, if they are to be of any value. In making their choices, the consultants looked for indications of statistics offices' adherence to this principle. They also looked closely at added value in terms of better statistics or methodologies, on the basis that the practices proposed had to have an impact on a larger scale than that of the national statistics system.

One of the key indicators for that was proof of interaction between national statistics institutes of different countries, interaction between the statistics institutes and the national ministries and/or interaction among different sectors of the economy.

These interactions, which take place on different levels, aim to widen the field of national statistics systems in order to respond to the common interests of countries in the Mediterranean region, but also to global priorities.

The consultants also took account of quality criteria, since they are the basis for such trust as may be placed in statistics, trust which can best be built on through transparency of methods and results. These criteria should in turn be based on the adoption of sound methodologies and appropriate statistical procedures - sound methodologies in order to produce statistics that are opportune, logical, appropriate, precise, reliable and comparable among the regions and countries concerned. Increased access for users to such statistics and to the associated metadata would increase the effectiveness of their use. The lessons drawn from the process of identifying good practices lead us to affirm that the objectives can be achieved through various strategies that conform to overall quality considerations. Moreover, it is an indication of the degree of internalisation on the part of those involved in the process, which greatly contributes to ensuring its sustainability.

In making their choices, the consultants disregarded certain activities such as the production of training courses, since these form part of the process rather than its accomplishment. They also disregarded overly technical sectors such as national accounts, since it is highly likely that this field would be incomprehensible to the public at large. This must in no way be taken as a sign that the consultants regarded the work of the partner countries or of MEDSTAT II as being of secondary or no importance in sectors that are essential. The fact is that, quite simply, a limited

choice had to be made and the examples were chosen in order to make them appear attractive to a majority of the people involved.

### ***Good practices***

Based on these criteria, the following five examples of good practice, suggested by the partner countries, were selected:

- External trade statistics: the analysis of imbalances in international trade, based on cooperation between the institutions responsible for external trade statistics with a view to improving the quality of the data.
- Collaboration among different ministries (inter-administrative cooperation) in order to boost the quality and relevance of statistics. The tourism sector provides an example of interconnection helping development and analysis of relevant new statistical series. A second example is provided by the use of new sources of data to keep tabs on population movements at borders, used by ministries of the interior in order to improve statistics on migration,
- Post-census surveys aimed at assessing both the coverage and the quality of the data collected through national censuses. As well as producing clear indicators regarding these aspects, this also leads to useful dialogue on the quality of the various statistical operations,
- Harmonisation of key social indicators – the development of a range of consistent indicators accepted by all concerning the social fabric throughout the region,
- Synergies between sectors, leading to better understanding of problems with multidimensional implications. Examples were taken from the environment, energy and transport sectors.

These examples of good practices do not specifically cover the energy and environment sectors, which are of prime importance for the Mediterranean region. However, elements available in the sectoral studies suggested the emergence of new interactions between tourism and the study of water, as well as between energy, environment and transport, which points to the possibility of developing synergies in these fields. These interactions will be analysed later with a view to developing examples of good practices in these fields.

## Onglet 1. INTRODUCTION- INTRODUCTION مقدمة

## Onglet 2. MULTIMEDIA TOOLS - OUTILS MULTIMEDIA أدوات الاعلام المتعدد الوسائط

### 1.1 Films - الأفلام

#### MEDSTAT II products

- Medstat Teaser - ميدسطة دعابة
- Medstat video jingle - رنين الفيديو ميدسطة
- Reading statistics: external trade of goods  
Lire les statistiques: commerce extérieur de biens
- The making of Trade statistics: asymmetries  
Le "Making of" des statistiques du commerce extérieur: les asymétries
- Script: Reading statistics: external trade of goods  
Scénario: Lire les statistiques: commerce extérieur de biens
- Script: The making of Trade statistics: asymmetries  
Scénario: Le "Making of" des statistiques du commerce extérieur:  
asymétries  
Version 3 (work in progress)  
Version 4 (work in progress)  
"النص: إن تحقيق الإحصاءات: التجارة الخارجية"

#### Videos from InWent - فيديو ذهب

- Demography
- Good Practices
- Measuring economy
- Michel Rocard
- Total Quality Management

#### Videos from Paris 21 / OECD - 21 فيديو لمنظمة التعاون والتنمية في باريس

- Statistics for Development - La statistique au service du développement 2005  
الإحصاء من أجل التنمية
- Agricultural statistics and food for development - Les statistiques agricoles et alimentaires 2006  
الإحصاءات الزراعية والغذائية من أجل التنمية
- African Statistics Day - Journée africaine de la statistique 2006  
يوم الإحصاء في أفريقيا

#### Other videos

- More videos with EuropeAid - مع المزيد من الأفلام الأوروبية
- More videos with EuroMed Info Centre - المزيد من الأفلام مع مركز يوروميدي للمعلومات
- Gapminder: video 2006 Mpeg 4 - 2006 العينات وصلات تذكاري الفيديو

## 1.2 Interviews - Interviews - مقابلات En Fr Ar

Identification of good practices in the region

Identification des bonnes pratiques statistiques dans la région

- Hussein Sayed - IDSC, Cairo, Egypt: Mediterranean perspective -  
perspective méditerranéenne

- Roger Edmunds - Consultant in statistics, United Kingdom: European  
perspective -perspective européenne

Part 1: Good practices

Part 2: Interaction, joined up government, democratic accountability

تحديد الممارسات الجيدة الإحصائية في المنطقة

سيد حسين: البحر الأبيض المتوسط

روجر آدموندز: المنظور الأوروبي

الجزء 1: الممارسات الجيدة

الجزء 2: العمل المشترك ، وانضم الى الحكومة ، والمساءلة الديمقراطية

The Directors General of Statistics of the Mediterranean Partners Countries

Benefits from MEDSTAT II and the way forward

Les Directeurs généraux de la statistique des Pays Partenaires

Méditerranéens

Les bénéfices de MEDSTAT II et le futur de la coopération

Work in progress (Partnership Group meeting)

European Commission – Commission Européenne

MEDSTAT II in the EU cooperation for statistics

MEDSTAT II dans le cadre de la coopération de l'UE en matière statistique

- Jesús Laviña, EuropeAid, Head of Sector – Chef de secteur

- Réjane Beurrier, EuropeAid, Programme Officer – Chargée de Programme

الثاني ميسطط

في الاتحاد الأوروبي والتعاون من أجل الإحصاء

المفوضية الأوروبية

- ،موظفة برنامج راجان بوري

- يسوع لافين ، رئيس القطاع

Views from the Mediterranean countries

Point de vue des pays méditerranéens

- Shimon Arieli, Israel

Director of Balance of Payments - Foreign Trade and Energy sector

- Sahin Yaman, Turkey

Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade, Prime Ministry General Directorate of

Economic Research and Assessment

وجهات نظر بلدان منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط

-تركيا

وكيل الشؤون الخارجية ، ورئيس الوزرا المديرية العامة للبحوث الاقتصادية والتقييم

-يمن شاهين ، وتركيا

وكيل الشؤون الخارجية ، ورئيس الوزرا

المديرية العامة للبحوث الاقتصادية والتقييم



Views from members of the Consortium Lot 2  
Points de vue des membres du Consortium Lot 2

- English original version with Arabic subtitles:

Marta Abarquero, INE, Spain

Tamara Pal, HCS, Hungary

- French original version with Arabic subtitles:

Michelle Jouvenal, ISTAT, Italia

وجهة نظر الكونسورتيوم

الكثير 2

النسخة الانكليزية الأصلية مع الترجمات باللغة العربية

- اب كو مارت

المعهد الوطني للإحصاء ، اسبانيا

- تامارا بال ، منسقي الشؤون الإحصائية ، هنغاريا

النص الفرنسي الأصلي مع ترجمات باللغة العربية

- ميشيل جوفينال

المعهد الإحصائي ، إيطاليا

The team of MEDSTAT II Lot 2

L'équipe de MEDSTAT II Lot 2

- Cécile Roddier-Quéfélec: Environnement statistics - Statistiques de l'Environnement

- Catherine Burdin: Project Manager - Gestionnaire du Projet

- Thierry Paccoud: Project Director - Chef de Projet

- Bahjat Achikbache: Social statistics - Statistiques sociales

الكثير 2: من ميدسطة الثاني الفريق

- احصاءات البيئة صيصل ل رودير

- كاترين بوردان: مدير المشروع

- تييرري باكو مدير المشروع

- الاحصاءات الاجتماعية بهجت الشخباش

EUROSTAT

Statistical Office of the European Communities

Office statistique des Communautés Européennes

- Statistical Cooperation - Coopération statistique: Pieter Everaers, Director

- The MEDSTAT team:

Arunas Butkevicius, Head of Unit - Chef d'Unité

Rosemary Montgomery, General MEDSTAT coordination - Coordination générale du programme

Volker Taübe and Jolanta Szczerbinska, European Neighbourhood Policy - Politique Européenne de voisinage

- Bonus:

Rosemary Montgomery in English: Two key sectors: Energy and Environment

Volker Taübe, en français - in French: Echanges de data

المكتب الإحصائي للاتحاد الأوروبي

المكتب الإحصائي للجماعات الأوروبية

التعاون الإحصائي

- بيتر إيفرارز, مدير

ميدسطة الفريق منالجزء الأول

- هارون بوت كافسوس - رئيس وحدة

- روزماري مونتغمري تنسيق البرنامج

- فولكر توبي  
ويولانتا صرب اعتصكا سياسة الجوار الأوروبي  
منحة  
- روزماري مونتغمري  
باللغة الانكليزية في موقعين اساسيين: الطاقة والبيئة  
- فولكر توبي تبادل البيانات

### 1.3 Others Multimedia Tools - Autres Outils Multimédia - أدوات الوسائط المتعددة أخرى

- Medstat Interactive Graphic: Beta version of the application Guidelines in the application itself
- Flash banner 1 - Bannière flash 1 - 1 فلاش راية
- External trade shot (silent) - Plan vidéo sur le commerce extérieur (muet)  
خطة فيديو عن التجارة الخارجية (صامتة)
- FLAGS of the 10 partner countries 10 أعلام البلدان الشريكة
- Medstat music jingle - ميدستات موسيقى التقديم
- Medstat music jingle AIFF
- Medstat music jingle MP3
- Palestine music contribution MP3
- GAPMINDER samples & links قِيمند: عينات و روابط
- U.N. mapping on population

### 1.4 Photos Bank - Banques Photos - مكتبة الصور

- Syria & Jordan
- Mediterranean region satellite photo
- Medsat II partners and team
- AIDCO photo library

### 1.5 Software - Applications - تطبيقات البرمجيات - En Fr Ar

- Windows Media Player pour Windows XP
- Acrobat 9 reader
- Quick Time video player
- Flash Player

### Onglet 3: PRESS – PRESSE الصحافة

- Medstat II press releases - Communiqués de presse - البيانات الصحفية
- Identifying Good Practices - Identification des bonnes pratiques - تحديد الممارسات الجيدة
- Medstat II flyer
- Profiles - Profils - ملامح
  - Thierry Paccoud
  - Hussein Sayed
  - Roger Edmunds

- “Mirror exercise” in trade statistics Analyse “Miroir” en commerce extérieur تحليل "مرآة" للتجارة الخارجية
- Medstat II publications: Euro-Mediterranean statistics  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=2313,59852546,2313\\_65339864&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2313,59852546,2313_65339864&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)
- Planning Mediterranean 2008 (Anima) - جدول اعمال منطقة المتوسطي - <http://www.animaweb.org/agenda-accueil.php?type=euromed>
- “Statistics In Focus” list of most recent publications (by sector) حسب القطاع
- Press releases on the exchange of data between the E.U. and Israel and Morocco:
  - Israel Memorandum
  - Morocco Memorandum
- Training and Employment in the Northern and Southern Mediterranean region  
Formation et Emploi au Nord et au Sud de la Méditerranée 2008

#### **Onglet 4: PARTNERS – PARTENAIRES الشريكة الدول**

By country:

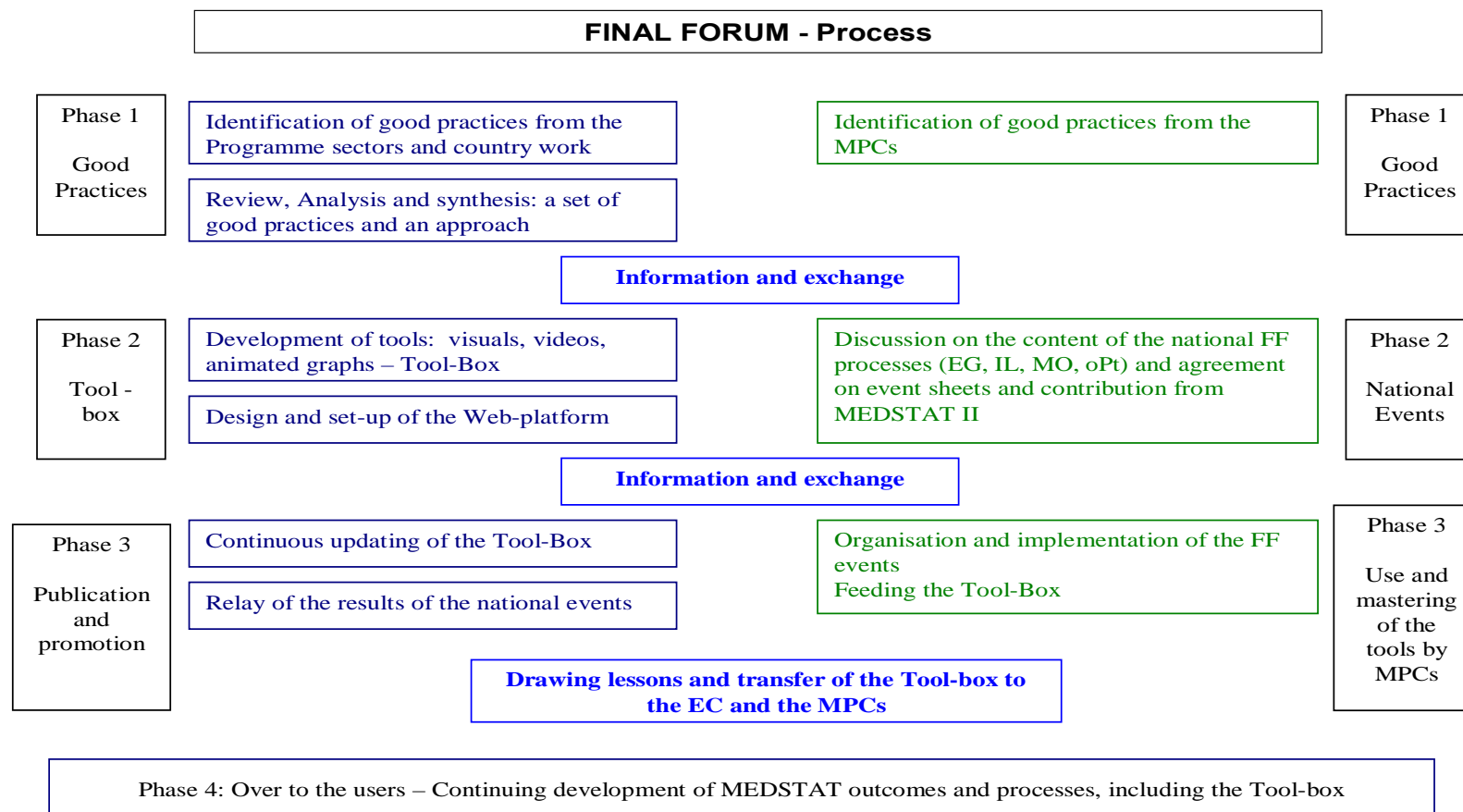
- identification of NSI (name, address, contacts, etc.)
- Flag
- Statistical profiles
- Specific documents

#### **Onglet 5: OTHER DOCUMENTS - AUTRES DOCUMENTS وثائق متفرقة**

- Medstat II flyer
- Medstat II CIRCA Guide
- Sondage IPSOS Planète Méditerranée 2008
- EUROMED Five Year Work Programme - قائمة المواقع
- Main Features of the Trade of Agadir Agreement Member States
- Caractéristiques du commerce des Etats membres de l'accord d'Agadir  
خصائص التجارة في الدول الاعضاء في اتفاق أغادير
- Identification of the good practices in statistics in the Mediterranean area  
Identification des good statistical practices dans la région méditerranéenne
  - Cyprus and Malta – Chypre et Malte
  - Egypt - Egypte - مصر
  - Israel - Israël - إسرائيل
  - occupied Palestinian territories - occupied Palestinian territories - الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة
  - Morocco - Maroc - المغرب
  - Tunisie - Tunisia - تونس
  - Thematic sectors - Secteurs Thématiques
  - Horizontal sectors - Secteurs Horizontaux

- Event sheets for national and final forum processes  
Fiche d'évènements nationaux dans le cadre du forum final أحداث وطنية  
مصر والمغرب وإسرائيل والأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة في إطار الشكل النهائي للمنتدى
  - Egypt - Egypte - مصر
  - Morocco - Maroc - المغرب
  - Israel - Israël - إسرائيل
  - occupied Palestinian territories - occupied Palestinian territories  
الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة -
- European Statistics Code of Practice  
Code de bonnes pratiques de la statistique européenne مدونة الممارسات  
للإحصاءات الأوروبية  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=2273,1,2273\\_47141302&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2273,1,2273_47141302&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)
- Glossary - Glossaire - معجم المصطلحات  
<http://unterm.un.org>
- Blue Plan's sustainable development outlook for the Mediterranean  
Les perspectives du Plan Bleu sur le développement durable en  
Méditerranée  
آفاق الخطة الزرقاء للتنمية المستدامة في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط  
<http://www.planbleu.org>
- U.N. guides:
  - "Making data meaningful"  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/writing/>
  - "Communicating with the media"  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/media/guide/Welcome.html>
- Working paper: Domestic tourism manual  
ورقة العمل: دليل السياحة الداخلية
- Web sites - Liste de sites Internet - مواقع إلكترونية -  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=2313,59852546,2313\\_69290195&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2313,59852546,2313_69290195&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

## APPENDIX 4: Overall Process for Final Forum



## APPENDIX 5

### National final forum of the MEDSTAT II programme

“A statistical system working to international standards, serving an advanced Euro-Mediterranean partnership”

Rabat, 23-24 June 2009

#### Programme

Tuesday 23 June 2009

#### Opening session chaired by Monsieur le Haut Commissaire au Plan

8.30am – 9am	Welcome and registration	
9am – 9.05am	Welcome address	
9.05am – 9.15am	Address by the Representative of the European Commission's Delegation to Morocco	Mr Jérôme Cassiers, Chargé d'Affaires
9.15am – 9.25am	Address by the head of statistical cooperation with the Mediterranean Partner Countries, Eurostat	Ms Rosemary Montgomery
9.25am – 9.35am	Address by the Medstat II-Lot 2 project head	Mr Thierry Paccoud
9.35am – 10am	Introductory remarks by Monsieur le Haut Commissaire au Plan	Mr Ahmed Lahlimi Alami
10am – 10.15am	<b>Coffee break</b>	

#### Sector workshops

##### Workshop 1: National accounts at the centre of economic information Led by: Ms Charlotte Schiltz, INSEE, France

10.15am – 10.45am	Moroccan national accounts: situation and outlook	Mr Mostapha Afkir, HCP
10.45am – 11.30am	Results of accounts, base 1998	Mr Mohamed Cherif Tahiri, HCP
11.30am – 11.45am	Presentation of CD ROM of national accounts for 1998-2007	Mr Salah Abbassi, HCP
11.45am – 12.15pm	Statistical system and national accounts	Mr Miloudi Errati, HCP
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Discussion	
1.15pm – 2.45pm	Lunch break	

##### Workshop 2: Business statistics in the service of public and private operators Led by: Mr Mostapha Afkir, HCP

2.45pm – 3pm	Presentation of businesses' statistical system in Morocco	Mr Jilali Rahali, HCP
3pm – 3.15pm	Reform of annual surveys of industrial undertakings	Ms Khadri, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies

<b>3.15pm – 3.30pm</b>	<i>Presentation on businesses' statistical system in Tunisia</i>	<i>Mr Bouzeyani Ali, Director Central business statistics, NSI-Tunisia</i>
<b>3.30pm – 3.45pm</b>	<i>Project for new system of common identifier for businesses (ICE)</i>	<i>Mr Michel Mass, USAID</i>
<b>3.45pm – 4pm</b>	<i>Good practices in business identification</i>	<i>Mr Hugues Picard, INSEE</i>
<b>4pm – 4.30pm</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	

### Wednesday 24 June

#### **Workshop 3: The Partnership in favour of better quality statistics on external trade** **Led by: Mr Moustouai; head of the statistics department, Foreign Exchange Office**

<b>9am – 9.15am</b>	<i>Principal quality indicators of the external trade sector</i>	<i>Mr Ahmed Moumri, Foreign Exchange Office</i>
<b>9.15am – 9.30am</b>	<i>Studies on asymmetries in external trade data</i>	<i>Mr Ouljour, Foreign Exchange Office</i>
<b>9.30am – 9.45am</b>	<i>Trade in services: measures being taken to improve statistics on international trade in services in accordance with the new international recommendations.</i>	<i>Mr Mounir Rhandi, Foreign Exchange Office</i>
<b>9.45am – 10.15am</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	
<b>10.15 – 10.30am</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>	

#### **Workshop 4: The energy balance: an appropriate tool for energy policy** **Led by: Ms Maya Aherdane; Manager DOP (Department of Energy)**

<b>10.30am – 10.45am</b>	<i>Energy statistics: achievements so far</i>	<i>Mr Aziz Bourahla, Medstat II</i>
<b>10.45am – 11am</b>	<i>Energy balances for the years 2004-2007: methodological approach</i>	<i>Mr Mohamed Salimi, HCP</i>
<b>11am – 11.15am</b>	<i>Indicators of energy effectiveness in Morocco</i>	<i>Mr Amina Ouattassi, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and the Environment</i>
<b>11.15am – 11.45am</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	

#### **Workshop 5: Tourism satellite account: the Moroccan experience** **Led by: Mr My El Hassan Sebbar, former Minister of Tourism**

<b>11.45am – 12pm</b>	<i>Sources of statistical information on tourism</i>	<i>Mr El Hamdouni, Ministry of Tourism and Crafts</i>
<b>12pm – 12.15pm</b>	<i>Tourism satellite account: Compilation, objectives and prospects</i>	<i>Mr Miloudi Errati, HCP</i>
<b>12.15pm – 12.30pm</b>	<i>Medstat II-Tourism: achievements so far</i>	<i>Mr Said Chahoua, HCP</i>
<b>12.30pm – 1pm</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	
<b>1pm – 2.30pm</b>	<i>Lunch</i>	

#### **Workshop 6: Social indicators serving human development** **Led by: Mr Touhami Abdelkhalek**

<b>2.30pm – 2.45pm</b>	<i>Harmonisation of social indicators</i>	<i>Mr Bahjat Achikbache, Medstat II</i>
<b>2.45pm – 2.55pm</b>	<i>Social indicators and human development</i>	<i>Mr Mohamed Barrech, HCP</i>
<b>2.55pm – 3.10pm</b>	<i>Labour market statistics in Morocco</i>	<i>Mr Mostapha Amrani Alaoui, HCP</i>
<b>3.10pm – 3.25pm</b>	<i>Modern tools for the presentation and dissemination of statistical indicators</i>	<i>Mr Nicolas Briant, Medstat II</i>



**3.25pm – 3.45pm**      **Discussion**

**3.45pm – 4pm**      **Coffee break**

**Closing session chaired by Monsieur le Haut-Commissaire au Plan**

**4pm – 4.35pm**      *Thematic workshop summary and conclusion*      *Workshop leaders*

**4.35pm– 4.45pm**      *Comments by the sectoral project head –Medstat II*      *Mr Thierry Paccoud*

**4.45pm – 5.15pm**      *Discussion*

**5.15pm**      **Close**

## **APPENDIX 6: Programme for the Final Forum event in the occupied Palestinian territories**

### **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics The International Conference on “Challenges and Future Perspectives of the Palestinian Statistical System”**

#### **Introduction**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has sought since 1993 to provide the Palestinian statistical figure in population, socio-economic, and geographic areas. Also, to create statistical databases of the Palestinian Territory that correspond to the changes in the different aspects of life and draw alongside the surrounding international developments. Building national capacities in the area of using statistical data in comprehensive development and planning is a top priority for PCBS. In addition, PCBS seeks to build updated statistical institutions databases and provide them, with the statistical figure, to the Palestinian National Authority as well as the stakeholders of the planning process and policy-making; also to define the priorities of the social, economic, and environmental areas.

The success of PCBS in preparing and adopting the “National Strategy for Development of Statistics - NSDS” through coordination and cooperation with the PNA institutions and the technical and financial support of the World Bank and Eurostat, constitutes the cornerstone of building the National Statistical System with all of its components at the national level.

The purpose of the selection of this specific conference title “Challenges and Future Perspectives of the Palestinian Statistical System” is to contribute to the achievement of the national objectives of building and development. Also, the title is in line with the international recommendations, which currently focus on building strategies for national statistics in order to establish strong statistical system that meets the needs of all users of the statistical figure.

This is to be conducted through strategic direction depending on the data of the administrative records as well as the household surveys and censuses.

Also, to make available the monitoring indicators of achieving development, most importantly, the MDGs, the indicators for the empowerment of the role of the woman in participation in the development process, monitoring progress in child rights, and contributing to the current international efforts in developing indicators measuring the progress of societies.

#### **Conference date and place:**

Monday and Tuesday, June 22 and 23, 2009  
Ramallah, Palestine

#### **The importance of the conference**

Having held two conferences on “Statistics and Policy-Making 1999” and “Statistics and Development 2007,” and adopting the national strategy of the statistical system, it is necessary to brush up the memory of the stakeholders of the statistical operation on the importance of statistics, and developing the statistical work, as well as the effective contribution to building the national statistical system. Also, to empower the culture of relying on statistics in planning and policy-making, shed light on the status of the women and children in the Palestinian Territory and the importance of monitoring their rights.

#### **Conference objectives**

##### **1. Main Goals**

Empower the role of the stakeholders in building the national statistical system and empower the use of the official Palestinian statistical figure to achieve development through raising the awareness of the users of the statistical data about the importance of statistics in planning and development.

##### **2. Objectives**

a. To involve politicians in the dialogue about the importance of statistics.

- b. To present and circulate the national strategy of the statistical system.
- c. To ensure that the building of the national statistical system is on top of the priority list of the government.
- d. To empower the role of the women in participating in the development process and monitor progress in child rights.
- e. To present the most up-to-date international experience in official statistics.

**Conference Themes:**

- 1. National strategy for official statistics.
- 2. Administrative records status (data sources of the data of the official, NGOs, and private institutions)
- 3. The status of the Palestinian woman (needs, rights in all aspects of life, and social protection)
- 4. The status of the Palestinian child (needs, rights in all aspects of life, and social protection)

**Participants in the conference**

The conference will be attended by political figures, ministers, universities, institutes, colleges, researchers, planners, and analysts from all research centres as well as and international institutions. Moreover, all concerned institutions, centres, and unions working on the rights of the woman and the child will attend the conference. Also, relevant international figures, Arab and international representative offices, donors, UN organizations, international organizations, and reporters will attend the conference.

**Anticipated outcomes**

The conference will produce recommendations to raise awareness concerning the significance of the national statistical system and its role as a basic component in comprehensive development. Also, presenting the national strategy for statistics and circulating it among the decision-makers. The conference will also produce recommendations on women's empowerment in taking part in the development process and monitoring the progress gained in the areas of the women and the child rights in order to bridge the gaps and focus on such rights to improve the conditions of women and children.

**Official Opening Ceremony**

<i>Timetable</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>By</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Audience Registry Process (Registration)	
10:00 – 10:05	The Palestinian National Anthem	
10:05 – 10:20	Speech by the Acting President of PCBS	Mrs. Ola Awad
10:20 – 10:35	Speech by the Representative of the European Commission	Mr. Kristin Burger
10:35 – 10:50	Speech by his Excellency Mr. President of Palestine State	His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abbas "Abu Mazen"
10:50-11:20	Coffee Break	

**The First Session "The Strategy of the Palestinian National Statistical System"****Conference 1st day, Monday****Head of the Session: Dr. Mohammed Nasser****22nd June 2009**

<i>Timetable</i>	<i>Subjects of the Session</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
11:20 – 11:35	The Realism of the Palestinian Statistical System	Dr. Samir Abdullah, Ex. M. O. P
11:35 – 11:50	The National Strategy of the Palestinian Statistics	Dr. Adel Al Zagha, Birzeit University
11:50 – 12:00	Key note Speaker	Mr. Jean Louis Bodin, OECD
12:00 – 12:20	Discussion	
12:20 – 12:35	The Realism of the Administrative Records in the Official Statistics.	Mr. Mahmoud Al-Qiya, PCBS
12:35 – 12:50	International Experiences in the Use of Administrative Records in the Official Statistics	Mr. José Luis Castanheira, M. O. H-Portugal
12:50 – 13:00	Key note Speaker	Ms. Michelle Jouvenal, Italian National Institute of Statistics-ISTAT
13:00 – 13:20	Discussion	
13:20-13:50	Coffee Break	

**The Second Session "The Support Principles towards the Development of the National Statistical System" Head of the Session: Dr. Sabri Sidam****Conference 1st day, Monday****22nd June 2009**

<i>Timetable</i>	<i>Subjects of the Session</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
13:50 – 14:05	Procedures of Administrative Regulatory to buildup a Population Register.	Mr. Imad Shanan, M.O.I
14:05 – 14:20	ESCWA role towards the Palestinian National Statistical System	Dr. Juraj Rican, ESCWA
14:20 – 14:35	Role of dissemination in the official statistics	Ms. Daiva Norkevièiene, Lithuania
14:35- 14:45	Key note Speaker	Dr. Volker G. Täube, Eurostat
14:45 – 15:00	Quality tailored to Palestinian Situation	Mr. Gilmore Hoefdraae, IMF
15:00 – 15:15	Role of Official Statistics in Good Governance	Mr. Raul Suarez, METAGORA Project
15:15 – 15:35	Discussion	
15:35	Lunch	

**The Third Session "The Tangibility of the Palestinian Woman" Head of the Session: Mrs. Zaheera Kamal****Conference 2nd day, Tuesday****23rd June 2010**

<i>Timetable</i>	<i>Subjects of the Session</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
09:30 – 09:45	Towards Monitoring System to the Health of the Palestinian Woman	Dr. Salwa Mas'ad, Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development
09:45 – 10:00	Woman's Rights in CEDAW Convention	Mrs. Salwa Hdaib, M. O. W.A
10:00 – 10:10	Key note Speaker	Dr. Rita Jaqaman, Institute of Community & public Health
10:10 – 10:25	UNFPA Action plan on Statistics role towards Gender issues	Ms. Barbara Piazza-Georgi, UNFPA Representative
10:25 – 10:45	Discussion	
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break	

**The Fourth Session The Tangibility of the Palestinian Child Head of the Session: Dr. Cairo Arafat****Conference 2nd day, Tuesday****23rd June 2010**

<i>Timetable</i>	<i>Subjects of the Session</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
11:15 – 11:30	Children's Behavior Control through Palestinian Survey Data of the Family Healthiness (2006)	Dr. Samya Helaileh, Institute of Community & public Health
11:30 – 11:40	Key note Speaker	Mr. Refa't Qassis, The International Movement for Children Advocacy
11:40 – 11:55	The Tangibility of the Handicap Students in Schools	Mrs. Reema Kilany, M.O.E & H. E
11:55 – 12:10	UNICEF Action plan on Statistics role towards Children's rights and issues	Mrs. Patricia McPhillips, UNICEF Representative
12:10 – 12:30	Discussion	
12:30-13:00	Coffee Break	







*Final Forum MEDSTAT II: disseminating good practices in statistics,*  
by MEDSTAT II - Lot 2



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