



### A Newsletter for MEDSTAT

*After a break of almost 5 years (the last MEDSTAT Newsletter was circulated on November 2011 ([Newsletter November 2011](#)), the MEDSTAT Newsletter is back with two new features: first it will cover the whole EU-MED cooperation in statistics and not only the new MEDSTAT IV project, opening its contents to all partners in the cooperation; second it will be a central part of the communication strategy for the project, extending the audience beyond the basic stakeholders of the cooperation. The main objective with the new approach is to better promote the work done by the EU-MED statisticians in harmonising their production and improving its quality and coverage. A new issue of the Newsletter will be produced each 4 month.*

### MEDSTAT IV is now on track!

The 4th phase of MEDSTAT was officially launched on January 11, 2016 by the European Commission who entrusted a consortium (see below) led by [Expertise France](#) for its implementation. Until the end of April, the project team mobilised by Expertise France has concentrated on preparing the Inception report for the project that was submitted to the ENP South countries for endorsement and to the EC for validation and approval.

The project will cover a period of 40 months and will end in April 2019. It will bring 4.7 Mo Euro to the development of statistics in the region and provide specific support to the statistical systems of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia (the cooperation with Syria is under suspension) mainly in the areas of Business registers and statistics, External trade and Balance of Payment statistics, Energy statistics, Transport statistics, Migration statistics and Labour Market statistics. Activities will also target synergies between these thematic sectors as well as transversal themes such as the visibility of the statistics produced by the ENP South countries and capacity strengthening, through training in innovative statistical topics and training for trainers.

## 1. Information on the project

### The family of MEDSTAT:

From MEDSTAT I to MEDSTAT IV: [Read more...](#)

### The first Working group meetings of the project

Between May 15 and July 28, the 6 working groups on the thematic sectors covered by the project M4 were held. This was the occasion to finalise the work programmes and to initiate the implementation of the project's activities.

### Meetings of the working groups

*Working group for Migration statistics: Geneva, May 17-18, 2016*

*Working group for Energy statistics: Paris, June 1-2, 2016*

*Working group for Transport statistics: July 13-14, 2016*

*Working group for Labour Market statistics: July 14-15, 2016*

*Working group for External Trade and Balance of Payment statistics: Lisbon, July 19-20, 2016*

*Working group for Business registers and statistics: Istanbul, July 26-27, 2016*

#### Lead and co-lead countries:

*Business registers and statistics: Palestine / Tunisia*

*Trade and Balance of Payment: Morocco*

*Transport: Morocco*

*Energy: Egypt / Morocco / Tunisia*

*Migration: Lebanon*

*Labour market: Tunisia*

### More information on the working groups

Working Groups have been set up presently for the 6 thematic sectors covered by MEDSTAT 4 and for the issue of Quality (under the responsibility of Eurostat (WG are created or suppressed by the Forum if/when deemed necessary – Generic terms of reference and mandate of the Working Groups, May 2013). They are led by the partners (lead countries for the thematic sectors and Eurostat for quality) who have a clear responsibility for preparing and chairing the regular meetings and following up on the decisions reached at the meetings.

*Other countries may be asked to co-chair or assist in preparing meetings or events. For the WG related to the sectors covered by MEDSTAT 4, the Key experts of the project will provide technical support to the lead countries and the project management team support for the organization of the events. The Lead countries regularly report to the Forum and present the work programmes agreed upon by their respective WG.*

### The consortium implementing MEDSTAT IV

The Consortium is led by Expertise France in partnership with the [Hungarian Central statistical office](#), [INSEE Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques](#), [ISTAT](#), [Istituto Nazionale di Statistica](#), [Statistics Denmark](#), [Statistics Lithuania](#), and Turkish Statistical Institute.

*This is a Consortium made up exclusively of public NSIs, and can be called upon for:*

- *the monitoring of the project;*
- *to mobilise the pool of high-qualified experts,*
- *to give the opportunity of exchange of best practices and technical knowledge that can give relevant orientation to the project.*
- *Experts mobilisation: A clear procedure of mobilisation of experts has been established. Whenever needed EF will launch a request for mobilisation by sending out ToRs to the Consortium members. Once the evaluation and pre-selection of the candidates has been carried out, EF will inform the Consortium and provide the EC with the selected CV.*
- *Communication: Regular contacts will be organized and permanent communication /information will be set through regular channels (e-mail and telephone).*

## Main activities of the project in 2016

- **May-June-July 2016** : Meetings of the 6 (six) working groups for the thematic sectors
- **20/21 September 2016 - Paris** : Meeting of the Lead coordinators: Tools for the management of the implementation of the project, coordination with the Technical and management team of the project basic training on group management
  - **27-30 September 2016 – Paris** : Participation of international and national experts in the next MED-HIMS meetings
- **5-7 October 2016 – Athens** : Regional workshop on the production of Energy balances
- **October-December 2016**: Workshops and sub-regional meetings of the thematic sectors

## 2. Information from the partners

### The Third Forum of the EU-MED statisticians

The Forum of the EU-MED statisticians met in Prague (Czech Republic) on April 19-20, 2016 under the co-chairmanship of **Eurostat** and **CAS Lebanon**. A large part of the agenda of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the content of the new MEDSTAT project: the work programmes for the thematic sectors covered by the project and for transversal issues were presented and debated in order to get an endorsement from the Forum. Other issues on the agenda were “quality on statistics” (preparation of the next conference on Quality (see Article below), the transformative agenda (see article below) and the **implementation of the code of practice, the results of the donor coordination survey and information on the sector assessments and peer reviews.**

### Where to find data and information on the EU-MED cooperation in statistics?

The information on the EU-MED cooperation in statistics is spread over several web-sites:

- **Eurostat web-site**

[Data on the sectors covered by the MEDSTAT projects and that are the subject of a regular exchange with the ENP South countries.](#)

[Information on MEDSTAT and MED-HIMs, access to the 2015 publication of Euro-Mediterranean statistics](#)

Links to the web sites of the ENPS countries' web sites:

[Documents, reports, publications and leaflets](#)

[Statistics Explained on MEDSTAT](#)

- **EU Neighbourhood Info Centre**

[Information on MEDSTAT](#)

[MEDSTAT Newsletters](#)

- **Web-sites of the NSIs of the ENP South countries**

Data and methodological information :

- 1) Office National Statistique (ONS) Algeria: [www.ons.dz](http://www.ons.dz)
- 2) Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) Egypt: [www.capmas.gov.eg](http://www.capmas.gov.eg)
- 3) Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) Israel: [www.cbs.gov.il](http://www.cbs.gov.il)
- 4) Department of Statistics (DOS) Jordan: <http://web.dos.gov.jo/?lang=en>
- 5) Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) Lebanon: [www.cas.gov.lb](http://www.cas.gov.lb)
- 6) Bureau of Statistics and Census Libya: [www.bsc.ly](http://www.bsc.ly)
- 7) Direction de la Statistique (DS) Morocco [www.hcp.ma/Direction-de-la-statistique\\_a716.html](http://www.hcp.ma/Direction-de-la-statistique_a716.html)
- 8) Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS): [www.pcbs.gov.ps](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps)
- 9) Institut National de la Statistique (INS) Tunisia : [www.ins.nat.tn](http://www.ins.nat.tn)

### Information note for Arab Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, 5-7 April 2016 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey by Turkstat

The Arab Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics was organized and hosted by SESRIC in collaboration and partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-STAT), and Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) on 5-7 April 2016 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey.

Experts from the National Statistics Offices of MEDSTAT IV Countries, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia as well as Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Turkey attended to the Conference. The representatives of Eurostat and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also participated in the Conference.

The Conference organized as a High-Level Forum of official statisticians to seek a broad consensus on the strategic framework for statistics. Moreover, it also aimed at formulating an adequate response to the increased demand for detailed and timely data to monitor progress on the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Conference covered five thematic areas of the Transformative Agenda that was identified by the Global Conference held on 15-16 January 2015 in New York and recognized by the UN Statistical Commission at its 46th Session. The thematic areas were:

1. Coordination at and between the global and regional statistical systems;
2. Communication and advocacy;
3. Integrated statistical systems: data collection, processing and dissemination; through integrated statistical systems;
4. Innovation and modernization through standards-based statistical business architecture; and
5. Training and capacity-building.

[Read more...](#)

### **UNDP "Launching Ceremony of the Arab Development Portal", Amman, 25 April 2016**

[Read more...](#)

### **UNECE 2016 Work Session on Gender Statistics in cooperation with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Statistics Lithuania in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 1-3 June, 2016.**

The discussion is expected to cover a large range of issues related to Gender statistics and to generate multiple technical contributions that will be available on the UNECE web-site

[Read more...](#)

### **Twinning between Statistics Denmark and the CBS Israel by ICBS**

The Israeli Central Bureau of statistics (ICBS) has partnered with Statistics Denmark. The project began on March 2016 and will conclude on March 2018 with a budget of 1,200,000 Euros. Throughout the project experts from Denmark and other EU Member States will participate in the project activities and a number of national stakeholders will be involved and benefit from the project.

The overall objective of the Twinning Project is for the ICBS to align official Israeli statistics with standards, guidelines, and best practices from the European Union and from international organizations such as the OECD.

The Twinning Project has four components:

1. Quality management of official statistics- As part of this Twinning Project, ICBS will foster quality management and assessment of official statistics in Israel.
2. Micro-data services to researchers- ICBS will establish a streamline system that will make micro-data access for researchers simpler without compromising the confidentiality and privacy of data.
3. Infrastructures for agricultural statistics- The ICBS and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will upgrade the agricultural statistics infrastructure in order to improve the quality – and at the same time prepare for the upcoming census.
4. Methodological and geo-special tools for improving the quality and the efficiency of field surveys- ICBS will improve the quality and efficiency of data collection in field surveys by implementing geo-spatial tools.

The EU-Israel Twinning Project had a successful opening event in Jerusalem on 13 April 2016. The opening ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the participation of high level officials from the EU, Denmark and Israel. As part of the opening ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Insurance Institute and the Central Bureau of Statistics was signed. The Memorandum of Understanding is one of the outstanding achievements of our previous Twinning Project that ran from May 2013 to December 2014.

Three missions took place during the first quarter where leading experts from Denmark provided expertise on Quality Management, Micro-data services and Methodological tools for improving the quality and the efficiency of field surveys. The three completed missions focused on establishing a basis for the upcoming work.

### 3. Special focus

#### Migration - First results from the MED-HIMS in Egypt and Jordan

- Publications on MED-HIMS  
[Read more...](#)
- Results - Egypt-HIMS Report  
[Read more...](#)

#### Gender Statistics workshops in Jordan *by Statistics Denmark*

Gender statistics was considered a transversal topic in Medstat 2 and 3. This is also the case in the new Medstat 4 project where gender statistics are highly relevant for example in the sectors of the project that deal with Migration and Labour Market as well as Business Statistics. Gender disaggregated data and gender specific indicators in relation to migration and labour statistics would make it possible for the Medstat countries to compare their situation with a special focus on gender and thus gain a better understanding of causes of gender specific problems and potential solutions.

A partnership between The Department of Statistics, Jordan (DoS) and Statistics Denmark was formed under the responsibility and support of The Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Diversity (KVINFO). The partnership aimed at enhancing the capacity building of DoS employees in the area of Gender Statistics through organizing a number of workshops in order to enhance quality, availability and comprehensiveness of gender disaggregated statistics and gender related indicators for public use, thus enabling DoS to expand the data and information available from various stakeholders and data producers in Jordan as well as improving the role of DoS in analyzing, evaluating and monitoring the effect of developmental efforts on women in Jordan. The workshops targeted Jordanian policy makers, producers of gender statistics as well as users of gender statistics in the local governorates of Jordan such as women's machinery and relevant civil society, non-governmental and private sector organizations. The participants were more than 60 women and men from all of Jordan's 12 provinces. During the workshops that lasted between 2 to 3 days Statistics Denmark as well as DoS explained how the two statistical systems work with gender statistics by telling the story of the process towards gender equality in both countries, and describe the status via statistics on different areas of interest. Participants were actively involved in discussions and provided suggestions on how to improve the laws towards more gender equality, how to design indicators measuring gender equality.

One of the most important outcomes of the workshops was enhancing leadership and networking through a sustained channel of communication and sharing of experiences with other countries on gender issues/statistics and advocacy. Another important outcome of these workshops was the fact that there are many similarities between gender statistics in Jordan and Denmark but also differences. According to Ms. Manal Sweidan, the Head of the Gender Statistics Division at the Department of Statistics in Jordan, Gender statistics make it possible to compare the same issues in different countries and potentially learn from each other and improve understanding which will be used to support the development of evidence-based policies for better gender equality.

Also, Ms. Manal added "As gender issues move forward in national and global agendas, new demands are created for statistics. Policy makers, researchers and advocates request additional data and argue, more generally, that the gender perspective should be a basic assumption guiding which data to collect and to analyze. In this way, gender statistics raise consciousness and provide the impetus for public debate and change".



**This project is funded by the European Union**

Official MEDSTAT web page on the [Eurostat website](#)

Website of the the [Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations \(DG NEAR\)](#)

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of MEDSTAT IV Team and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

#### Contacts :

Team Leader  
Mr Thierry Paccoud  
[thierry.paccoud@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:thierry.paccoud@expertisefrance.fr)

Project Manager  
Ms. Beata Suszterova  
[beata.suszterova@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:beata.suszterova@expertisefrance.fr)

Project Officer  
Mr Alexis Ghosn  
[alexis.ghosn@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:alexis.ghosn@expertisefrance.fr)

Key Expert 1 – Energy & Transport  
Mr Thierry Coulet  
[thierry.coulet@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:thierry.coulet@expertisefrance.fr)

Key Expert 2 – Business Register & Statistics & Trade  
Mr Ridha Benzarti  
[ridha.benzarti@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:ridha.benzarti@expertisefrance.fr)

Key Expert 3 – Migration & Labour  
Mr Giambattista Cantisani  
[giambattista.cantisani@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:giambattista.cantisani@expertisefrance.fr)