

# Statistical cooperation - European Neighbourhood Policy-South (ENP-S)

Statistics Explained

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This article forms part of a [set of background articles](#) which introduces the statistical cooperation activities of the [European Union \(EU\)](#) with non-member countries and focuses on cooperation with its Southern Neighbourhood countries in the context of the [European Neighbourhood Policy \(ENP\)](#) .

## Countries concerned and the partnership

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) — established in 2004 — reflects the European Union's (EU) wish to build on common interests with partner countries and commitment to work jointly in key priority areas. The ENP-South covers ten countries from EU's Southern Neighbourhood: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine<sup>1</sup>, Syria<sup>2</sup> and Tunisia.

The European Neighbourhood Policy was reviewed in 2015. The review was set out in the [Joint Communication Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy](#) of 18 November 2015.

The main principles of the revised policy were a tailored approach to partner countries; flexibility; joint ownership; greater involvement of EU member states and shared responsibility. The ENP aims to deepen engagement with civil society and social partners. It offers partner countries greater access to the EU's market and regulatory framework, standards and internal agencies and programmes.

The joint communication a [Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood - A new Agenda for the Mediterranean](#) of 9 February 2021 set out a new and ambitious agenda for the region. The key themes are:

- human development, good governance and the rule of law
- resilience, prosperity and the digital transformation
- peace and security
- migration and mobility
- green transition: climate resilience, energy and environment.

An [Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours](#) complements the new Agenda for the Mediterranean. The Plan includes flagship initiatives in a number of priority sectors.

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<sup>1</sup>This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.

<sup>2</sup>Cooperation with Syria is currently suspended due to the political situation in the country.

## Cooperation in statistics

Eurostat has been supporting statistical capacity building in the ENP-South countries and the region for a number of years by:

- providing technical assistance to national statistical authorities;
- sharing best practice and the transfer of know-how;
- collecting, validating and disseminating wide range of data;
- assisting countries in the process of harmonisation towards European and international norms and standards.

The multiannual regional cooperation programme for statistics addressing common issues and requirements, the [MEDSTAT programme](#), is a key tool for statistical cooperation. The MEDSTAT V programme was launched in January 2022 for the period 2022-2025. Detailed work programmes will be set up in the first six months of the programme for its implementation

The annual Forum of Euro-Mediterranean statisticians steers and guides the Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation in statistics and discusses issues of topical interest.

The Forum is co-chaired by Eurostat and one of the partner countries.

One of the results of the cooperation is the [Statistics Code of Practice for the European Neighbourhood South countries](#), developed by Eurostat in cooperation with the partner countries. The purpose of the Code, which the Forum endorsed in 2016, is to help guide the development of the national statistical institutes and systems.

Eurostat has conducted [peer reviews and sectoral assessments](#) in the ENP South countries. These aim at helping the countries to improve their systems where needed. They also help donors to better target their financial and technical support.

## Twinning and TAIEX

Twinning and TAIEX (technical assistance and information exchange instrument) are EU instruments through which technical assistance on statistics may also be provided. [Twinning](#) takes a medium-term perspective (up to six months under the 'light' option) or longer-term perspective (from a minimum of 12 months up to a maximum of 36 months), providing direct assistance from EU Member States on specific topics. [TAIEX](#) – the technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission supports public administrations with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices. It is largely needs-driven and delivers appropriate tailor-made expertise to address issues at short notice.

## Data collection and dissemination

Although the Southern neighbourhood countries and Eurostat are not legally obliged to exchange statistical data, Eurostat collects data from the countries. Partner countries' participation is voluntary in an annual data collection that a contractor conducts on behalf of Eurostat. Such data exchanges are a tangible outcome of statistical cooperation.

The data are collected for several social, economic and environmental themes, such as population, health, living conditions, education, the labour market, the economy, international trade in goods, agriculture, business statistics and tourism, communications and the information society, research and development, transport, energy and the environment.

After validation, the collected data are uploaded onto the [ENP-South domain](#) of [Eurobase](#), Eurostat's free reference database. The data are also used to prepare publications with figures collected from the countries.

In 2020, Eurostat published a [statistical book](#) on Southern Neighbourhood countries.

Eurostat also publishes [leaflets](#) on particular topics, as well as a series of [Statistics Explained articles](#).

More information on statistical cooperation is available free of charge on the [ENP section](#) of [Eurostat's website](#) .

## Other articles

- [International statistical cooperation](#) — online publication

## Database

- [Southern European Neighbourhood Policy countries \(ENP-South\)](#) (enps)

## Dedicated section

- [ENP-South](#)

## Publications

- [All publications on European Neighbourhood Policy countries](#)

## External links

- [Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations — European Neighbourhood Policy \(ENP\)](#) , see:
- [Regional cooperation with Southern Neighbourhood partners](#)
- [Technical Assistance Exchange Instrument \(TAIEX\)](#)
- [Twinning programmes](#)
- [European External Action Service \(EEAS\) — European Neighbourhood Policy \(ENP\)](#) , see:
- [ENP action plans](#)
  - [ENP progress reports](#)

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