

MONITORING REGIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES: WHERE STATISTICS AND ITS USES MEET.

SOME LESSONS FROM MEDSTAT

First UfM High-level Working Group on Employment and Labour Market

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WHO AM I TO LECTURE YOU ON MONITORING?

- Economist, with more than 37 years of experience in development cooperation (statistics, economic analysis, training ...)
- Member of the European Evaluation Society
- Project Director/Leader of MEDSTAT II (2006-2010) and MEDSTAT IV (2016-2019)

STATISTICS ARE NOT VISIBLE !!!

- Work for different institutions (EU, WB, UNDP, ADB, ASEAN, CARiCOM ...) and different national cooperation bodies (France, Germany, Luxembourg ...)
- Work in different environments (Europe, MED countries, Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Latin America ...)
- Work with different perspectives (identification, implementation, evaluation, training ...)

=> One common conclusion: no serious support to statistics

A CONTRADICTION IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION?

« Evidence-based decision making »
« Result-based management »
« Impact analysis »

Low support to data
collection, dissemination
and analysis

YOU WOULDN'T DRIVE YOUR CAR WITHOUT KNOWING ...

Your speed

Where you are going

The power of your engine



The gaz you have left

BUT CONDUCTING A POLICY WITHOUT CLEAR AND OBJECTIVE INFORMATION IS STILL ACCEPTABLE TODAY!!

Do we always have data on:

- **Supply and demand**
- **Stocks and flows**
- **Before and after**
- **Globality and details**
- **Domestic and international**
- **Other**



"That's what I want to say. See if you can find some statistics to prove it."

We can do better if we know better!

THE PRODUCER'S SIDE



"That's what I want to say. See if you can find some statistics to prove it."

The statistician

THE MERITS OF STATISTICS (1)

Statistics are key to inform policy makers:

- **Set priorities and targets**
- **Orient programme design and steering**
- **Monitor implementation and performance**
- **Evaluate results achieved and the impact**

THE MERITS OF STATISTICS (2)

Statistics are key to inform the democratic debate:

- **Provide objective, scientific and independent measures**

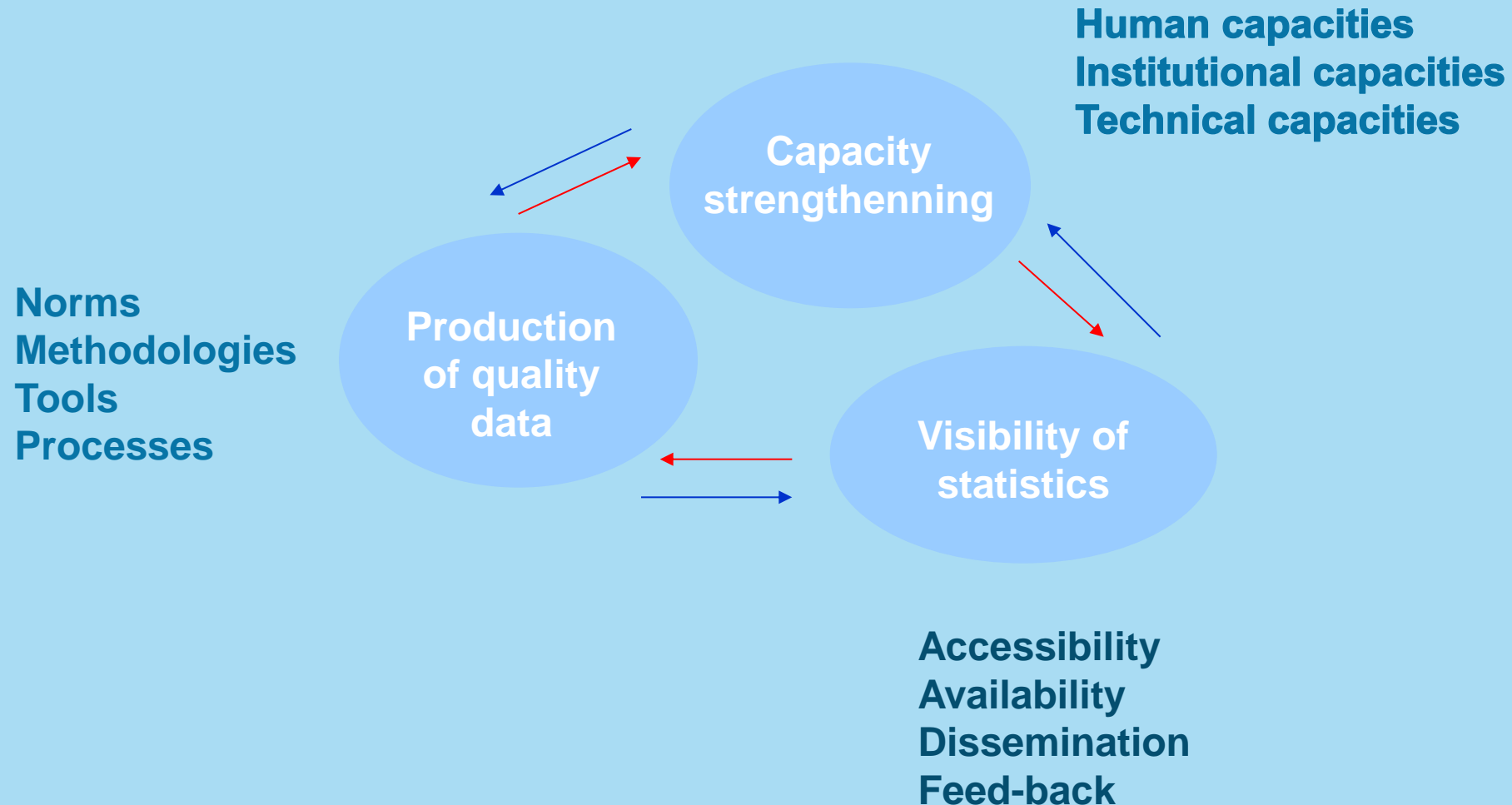
UN fundamental principles for statistics

Regional codes of practices

BUT, STATISTICS ARE ...

- **Complex to produce (result of large operations or of the consolidation of different sources),**
- **Complex to understand (rules and norms) and to interpret (limitations),**
- **Not easy to find and to access,**
- **Not always relevant to users' needs**
- **Sometimes costly ...**

The vertuous process for statistical development



NEW PRESSURES ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS (1)

**Scope of the demand for statistics expands quickly
(sectors, thematics, coverage, disaggregation ...)**

Ex: SDGs

**=> To find new ways to produce indicators using
administrative data, big data, citizen-generated data ...**

NEW PRESSURES ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS (2)

Tools, methods and systems have evolved considerably in the last years to adapt to digitalisation, globalisation, social medias ...

=> To invest massively in technology and human resources

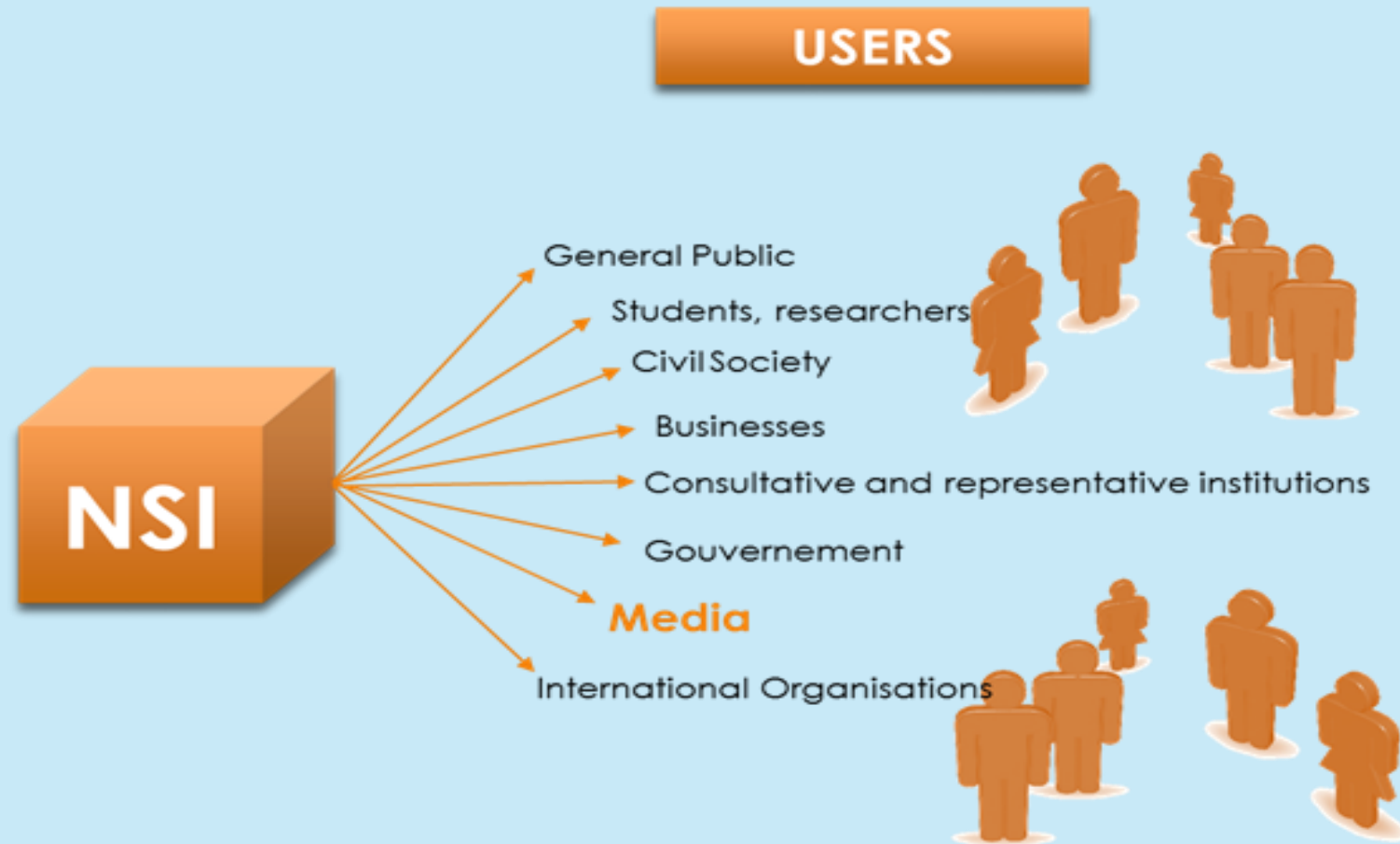
THE USER'S SIDE

The User



"That's what I want to say. See if you can find some statistics to prove it."

IF ONLY THERE WAS ONLY ONE GROUP OF USERS ...



ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL!

Each group has its own:

- **Priorities and needs for data (coverage, level of disaggregation ...)**

(Researchers: micro-data, Decision-makers: consolidated indicators)

- **Mode of consumption of data (format, media, calendar, frequency ...)**

(Journalists: infographics, Private sector: key topical indicators)

SOME MAIN OBSTACLES TO DATA USAGE (OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN PARTICULAR)

- **Poor freshness of the data**
- **No time series (only one-shot estimates)**
- **Inadequate level of disaggregation**
- **Difficult/costly accessibility**
- **Weak understanding of the content/structure of the data and of the limits of its usage, particularly when there is no accompanying meta data**
- **Low attractiveness in the presentation of the data**
- **Irregular availability**

REGIONAL DIMENSION (MED)

Complex environment requiring harmonised concepts and methods.

But obstacles linked to:

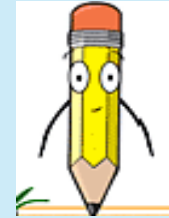
- Economic, social and political context (impact on concepts)**
- Culture and history (Influence of the French statistical system)**
- Language (access to literature and progress)**
- Level of development (absorptive capacities)**

TO SUM-UP



Statisticians views:

The users don't know how to express their data needs correctly and these needs change all the time

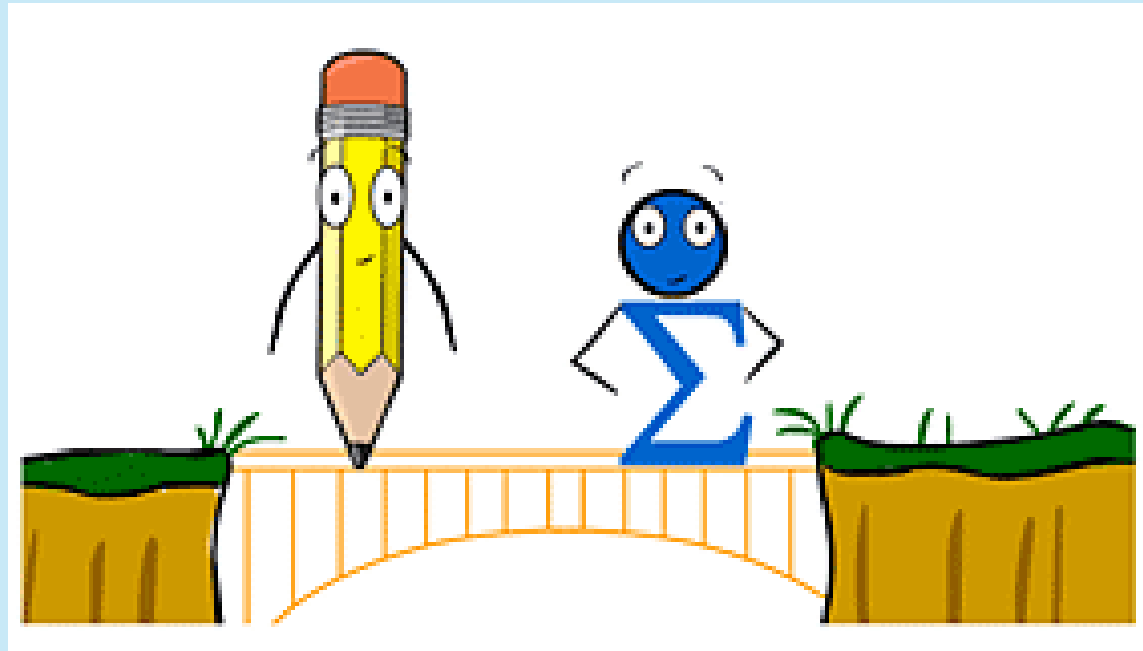


Users views:

Available statistics are generally old and they don't match our demand

=> Is there a way to reconcile them?

YES! BRING THEM TOGETHER AND BRIDGE THE GAP!



BRIDGE THE GAP: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

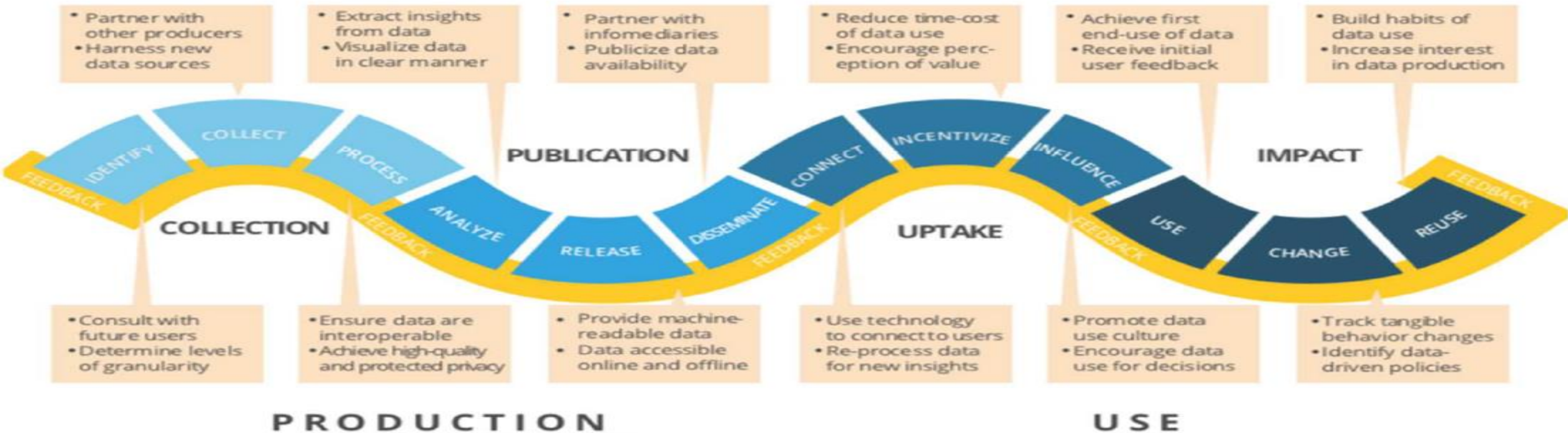
Bring them together:

- **To learn to speak the same language and understand each other**
- **To discuss respective needs and constraints**
- **To work together on mutually beneficial partnerships and to design workable solutions**

=> confidence, trust and mutual respect

THINK COMPREHENSIVE AND INTER-RELATED

DATA VALUE CHAIN



PRODUCTION

USE

increasing value of data



Roadblocks for **production** include lack of financial, human, and technological resources; low data literacy; lack of trust between users and data collectors; blind-spots in data gaps; lack of country ownership; and lack of government desire for transparency.



Roadblocks for **use** include low political support; lack of data relevance to decisions; poor quality; lack of trust in government data use; no rewards or results of data use; financial constraints; corruption; data silos; and lack of partnerships between infomediaries.

MARKERS

Potential achievements within each process of the value chain mark progress towards data impacts.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: MEDSTAT



A LONG COMMON HISTORY ...

Family of EU-Funded regional projects to support statistics in the ENP-S countries

- MEDSTAT I: 1996-2003
- MEDSTAT II: 2006-2009
- MEDSTAT III: 2010-2013
- MEDSTAT IV: 2016-2019

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/MEDSTAT_programme

AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK ...

Embedded into the EU-MED cooperation of statisticians

- **Initiated in 2013**
- **Forum co-chaired by Eurostat and one ENP-S country (MO)**
- **Sector Working groups**
- **Other EU-funded activities (Eurostat)**

MII, MIII and MIV Implemented by Expertise France with a consortium of statistical institutions, mainly from the EU

KEY ELEMENTS

Partner countries:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia
(Turkey, Syria)

Sectors covered:

Thematic sectors: Energy, Transport, Migration, **Labour Market**, Business Registers, Xtrade, Agriculture, Tourism, National Accounts, Environment

Transversal sector: Visibility, Gender, Training, IT

SECTOR LABOUR MARKET (1)

New sector covered under MEDSTAT IV

Working group led by INS Tunisia

Thematic addressed:

- Labour Force Surveys
- Implementation of the resolutions of the 19th ICLS Conference
- Statistics on decent work
- Statistics on Labour migration
- Statistics on women in employment
- Statistics on informal work
- Measuring Qualifications and Skills

SECTOR LABOUR MARKET (2)

Main outputs from MEDSTAT IV

Compendium of Labour Force Surveys

Inventories of labour and SDG-related indicators

Assessment Report on Decent Work and SDG indicators

Study on the participation of women in the labour market

Final sector report

LINKING STATISTICS WITH POLICY MONITORING: THE CASE OF GENDER (1)

Parallel developments (2016-2017)

MEDSTAT IV	UfM
Promotion of the partners for the inclusion of gender statistics in the programme as a specific sector	4 th UfM Ministerial Declaration on strengthening the role of women in society.
Setting-up of the sector Working group (Lead by DoS Jordan)	The UfM Secretariat is mandated to develop a gender indicators framework for the ministerial declaration
Specific technical assistance to MED countries in: Time use survey, Domestic violence survey, genderisation of data banks	

LINKING STATISTICS WITH POLICY MONITORING: THE CASE OF GENDER (2)

When respective interests met (2018)

MEDSTAT IV		UfM
Preparation and production of a specific regional publication of harmonised gender indicators		Regional dialogue meeting on women empowerment (October), resolution to open a dialogue with and support national statistic schemes and institutions to produce gender sensitive data and statistics
Gender statistics – Volume 1	https://medstat4.expertisefrance.fr/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/MEDSTAT-IV_Publication_Gender_Volume-1.pdf	
Gender statistics – Volume 2	https://medstat4.expertisefrance.fr/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/MEDSTAT-IV_Publication_Gender_Volume-2.pdf	
Large dissemination of the publications across the region		
Initial discussions between MEDSTAT IV and UfM Secretariat on the MIV publications, the indicators and their use for feeding the future policy monitoring system		

LINKING STATISTICS WITH POLICY MONITORING: THE CASE OF GENDER (3)

Workable and mutually beneficial solutions (2019)

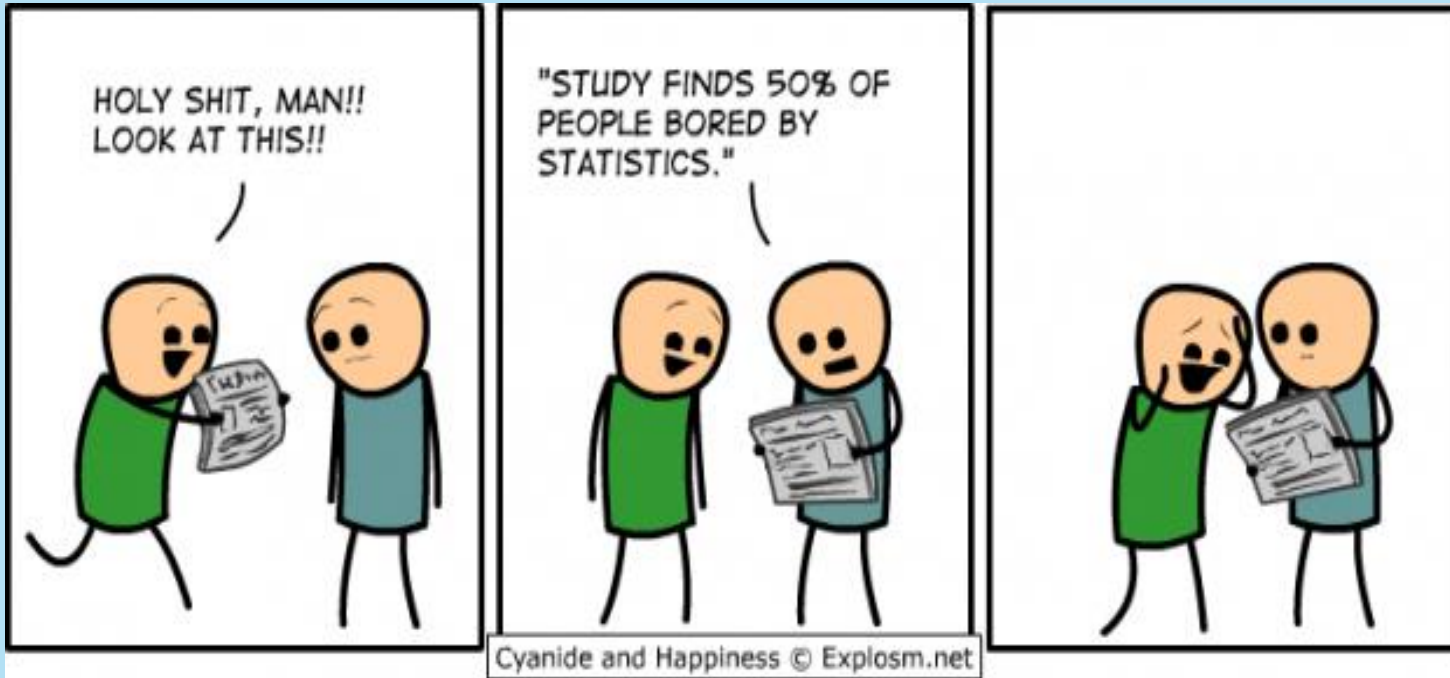
Participation of the UfM Secretariat to the MIV Forum meeting – contact with the DGs of the MED NSIs - April

Contacts between the UfM Secretariat and the MIV Lead coordinator for gender statistics (Jordan) – May-June

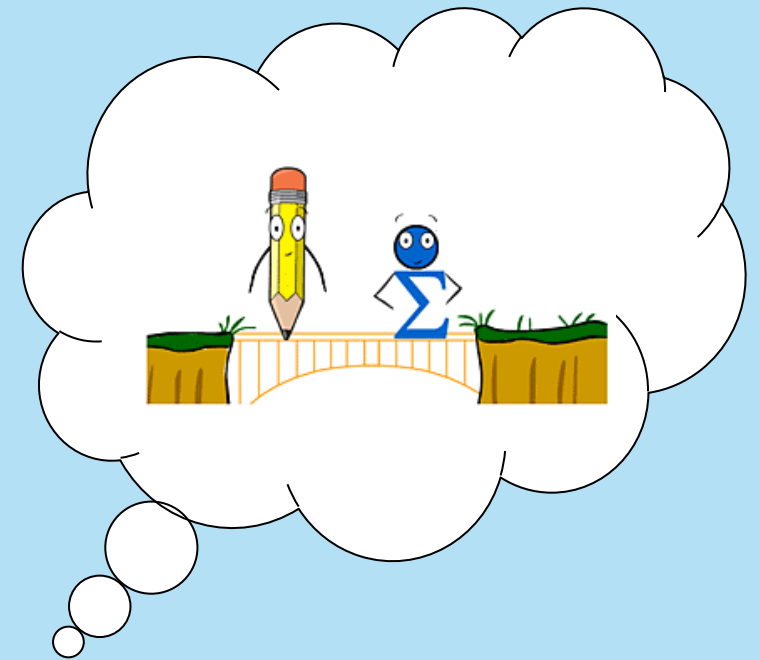
Participation of the MIV Lead coordinator for gender statistics in the UfM technical meeting on the regional gender policy monitoring system - July

Proposal of a list of indicators to monitor the progress made in implementing the regional gender policy – July to ...

Are you convinced that statistics may bring you useful material for decision making or at least some food for thoughts??



To which 50% do you belong?



CONCLUSIONS

- **Statisticians produce data that must be used and feed-backs from the users are crucial to make these data relevant to policy issues;**
- **Since 1995, MEDSTAT supported the modernisation and the harmonisation of the MED statistical systems; the fourth phase of the project ended August 2019; within this cooperation framework, Labour Market was an area which has received a lot of attention;**
- **Main achievements in the Labour market statistics sector concerned the production of comparable data on several topics (decent work, informal work, female employment ...) and methodological improvements particularly for Labour Force surveys;**
- **There are potential areas where to bring statistics in the work of the UfM regarding the monitoring of the progress made in implementing the Ministerial Declaration of Cascais.**

I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST AND A VERY FRUITFULL WORK ON AN EFFECTIVE POLICY MONITORING SYSTEM.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

For more information on MEDSTAT:

- **Eurostat: Unit B3 – Enlargement, neighbourhood and development cooperation**
- **DG NEAR: Unit NEAR B2 - Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South**

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