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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES COVERED BY THE UNECE
STATISTICAL DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 2004-MAY 2005**

Note prepared by the ECE secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. The technical cooperation activities in statistics are carried out by the Regional Adviser on Statistics and other professional staff of the UNECE Statistical Division. The main targets of this technical cooperation, within the UNECE region, are the Western Balkans and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
2. The Western Balkans and the CIS cover a range of countries that are at different stages of their economic and social development. In the Western Balkans, Croatia is an official candidate to EU membership. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has applied for the status of candidate to the EU membership. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro are progressing in the Stabilization and Association Process with the European Union.
3. Among the CIS countries, there is also considerable diversity in the development towards a market economy. In May 2002, EU granted the status of market economy to Russia, in the framework of a "common European economic space". For other CIS countries, the diversity of development calls for a tailored development of statistics, accompanied by sustained technical cooperation by international organizations that are active in this area.
4. The implementation of the European Union programme CARDS is progressing at the national and the sub-regional level in the Western Balkans. Beyond EU, the international community, including UNECE, EFTA, the Council of Europe, UNDP, IMF, and the World

Bank, is devoting attention and resources to strengthening the statistical capacity in these countries.

5. The EU TACIS programme is a major source of technical cooperation in the CIS countries, with the exception of Belarus and Tajikistan. In the statistical field, after a decrease of allotments over the past two years, TACIS funded cooperation is slowly resuming. UNECE, together with UNDP, the World Bank, IMF, and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS, are also active in the region.

6. The main reference in dealing with development issues at world level is the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the corresponding Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The UN Secretary General presented his third report to the UN General Assembly on 27 August 2004. The report stressed the need for reliable and timely data for the monitoring of progress towards the MDG, which implies a continued effort at the regional and national levels to increase statistical capacity.

7. Against this background, the UNECE and other international organizations have devoted a significant amount of human and financial resources to the development of economic and social statistics in the Western Balkans and the CIS.

UNECE TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Bilateral activities

8. At the request of national authorities and/or international organizations that are active in the respective country, the UNECE Statistical Division cooperates with individual member countries in order to strengthen their statistical capacity.

Albania

9. In cooperation with Eurostat, a global assessment of the national statistical system was conducted in March and May 2005. The final report is being submitted to national statistical authorities for approval.

Azerbaijan

10. In cooperation with UNDP, an assessment of the production and use of gender statistics was conducted in June 2004.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

11. UNECE provided advice to the UNDP country office in November 2004 and May 2005 on the preparation of a concept paper in view of a population census to be organized under the auspices of the Peace Implementation Committee in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia

12. In cooperation with Eurostat, a global assessment of the national statistical system was completed and the national statistical authorities approved the conclusions of the assessment in June 2004.

Kyrgyzstan

13. Advisory services were provided to the National Statistical Committee on the production and dissemination of industrial production indices in June 2004.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

14. In cooperation with Eurostat, a global assessment of the national statistical system was conducted in September and October 2004. The national statistical authorities approved the conclusions of the assessment in December 2004.

15. UNECE also provided advice to the State Statistical Office on the improvement of the statistical legislation according to EU standards in May 2005.

Turkmenistan

16. In cooperation with UNFPA, UNECE provided advisory services to the National Institute of Statistics and Forecasting on their database of gender statistics in December 2004.

Multilateral Activities

17. Technical assistance is also provided in the form of sub-regional workshops and multi-country advice in specific statistical areas for countries of the Western Balkans and the CIS.

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

18. In cooperation with the Interstate Statistical Committee, the World Bank and PARIS21, UNECE organized a seminar for the heads of national statistical offices of CIS countries in Moscow in November 2004. The seminar dealt with the implementation of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in statistical planning.

Gender Statistics

19. In cooperation with UNDP, the government of Turkmenistan and the US Bureau of Census, UNECE organized a sub-regional training session on gender statistics for statisticians and analysts of Central Asian countries in Ashgabat in July 2004.

20. In cooperation with UNDP, UNFPA and WHO, UNECE organized a training session on gender statistics for Western Balkan and CIS countries back-to-back with the UNECE work session on gender statistics in Geneva in October 2004.

21. In cooperation with the World Bank, UNECE organized a training workshop on the use of gender statistics for Central Asian countries in Bishkek in December 2004.

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