

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For decision

First meeting of the 2009/2010 Bureau
Washington, D.C., 15-16 October 2009

Item 3(k) of the Provisional
Agenda

**UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME 2009:
ACTIVITY 1.4: COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN
CENTRAL ASIA**

Note prepared by UNECE Secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) decided in February 2006 that UNECE will, in cooperation with Eurostat and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), carry out a survey on donor activities in the field of statistics in Central Asia.
2. Two surveys have been performed (in 2006 and 2008) and their results have been reported to the Bureau. Both Reports have been received with interest and followed up with discussions and further recommendations. The Reports have also been useful in exchanging information and coordinating statistical capacity building activities in the framework of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)¹.
3. In order to establish an up-to-date source of high quality information on donor activities in the field of statistics at a global level, UNECE participated in 2006-2008 in a Task Team developing a Partner Reporting system, set up by the Coordination Committee of Statistical Activities (CCSA), lead by PARIS21. The members of the Task Team were Eurostat, UNECE, FAO, IMF, the World Bank, PARIS21, the Department for International Development of United Kingdom and the Donor Coordination Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France.
4. As a result of the work, the global Partner Report System on Support for Statistics (PRESS) was created in 2008. The system is administered by PARIS21. The experience accumulated in preparing the above mentioned UNECE Reports was used in building up the system. Today the PRESS Reporting System provides fresh and annually updated data and some summary analysis on donor activities in statistics at a global level. The PRESS reporting focuses on all developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Therefore, all the Central Asian countries are covered, except Kazakhstan.

II. PROPOSED ACTION

5. As it is now possible to use of the annually updated data of the PRESS reporting

¹ Participating countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

system, there is no need for UNECE to continue to collect the information on donor activities in statistics in Central Asia and the UNECE survey for this purpose can be terminated.

6. However, the PRESS reporting system is not sufficient for analytical and coordination purposes. Therefore, it is proposed that the UNECE will continue to produce annual analytical reports on the statistical technical cooperation activities in SPECA countries using the results from the PRESS system and the UNECE network in these countries.

7. The 2007 and 2008 UNECE Reports on Donor Activities in Central Asia showed that Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan enjoyed particular attention of the donors. Kazakhstan has the highest GDP/capita level in Central Asian sub-region and is not included in the PRESS reporting. Therefore, UNECE should find bilateral ways to collect information on donor support for statistics in Kazakhstan. This will not be too difficult given the extensive cooperation between UNECE and the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics, as evidenced by the Global Assessment in 2008-2009 and numerous seminars and training workshops carried out in 2007-2009.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ANALYTICAL REPORTING ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

8. The first Donor Report on Central Asia in February 2007 included six recommendations for future coordination of statistical capacity building activities and for carrying out the survey. Five of these have been put in place in the framework of the PRESS reporting system and in UNECE coordination activities.

9. The only recommendation that has not been fully implemented concerns comparing donor activities and future plans on technical cooperation with the strategic development plans for official statistics and agreeing on the main activities. In future analytical reporting by UNECE, the relation between donor and technical cooperation activities and the Strategic Development Plans for Official Statistics of countries (the National Statistical Development Strategies and the Multi-Year Integrated Strategic Plans) will continue to be of great importance. This allows to focus the donor activities on long-term statistical capacity building and to support ownership and professionalism in implementing the technical cooperation projects.

10. A stronger emphasis on improving cooperation between different donors and the agencies implementing the projects is foreseen, based on the improved tools for following up on donor activities and efforts to avoid duplication of work. The analytical reports on technical cooperation activities in Central Asia should deal also with this aspect and emphasise the importance of good coordination of the activities.

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