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ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ
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UNITED NATIONS
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Report

ECE-ESCAP-SPECA/PWG-Statistics/2007/2
ECE/CES/GE57/2007/2

Report of the activities of the Project

“Strengthening the Statistical Capacity of Central Asian Countries to Monitor the Progress toward the Millennium Development Goals” (StatCapCA-Project),

financed (mainly) by the UN Development Account, 5th Tranche, Project 06/07F in the period April 2006 – March 2007

Report submitted in April 2007 by
Petteri Baer, Regional Adviser
Economic Commission for Europe, Statistical Division
United Nations, Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Genève 10, Switzerland
e-mail: petteri.baer@unece.org
phone: +41 22 917 33 11
fax: +41 22 917 00 40

1. The content of the **Project Document** was finally approved on April 11 2006. The three following paragraphs, citations from the Executive Summary of this Project Document, reflect the objectives, focus and budget of the Project.
2. The **objective** of the Project is to strengthen the statistical capacity of member countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to monitor demographic, social and economic progress toward the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Beneficiary countries are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and partially Afghanistan.
3. The Project will **focus on three statistical areas**, namely (i) *population and social conditions*, (ii) *health status of the population*, and (iii) *economic development*. These areas are critical for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Moreover, they are among the cornerstones of any statistical system. In the specific situation of Central Asian countries, it has been observed that difficulties faced over the past two decades have impacted the ability to produce the required basic statistical information in these areas. There is a need for building the statistical capacity of these countries in the three above listed statistical areas.
4. The total **budget** of the Project amounts to US\$385,000 and will be conducted over the years 2006 – 2008. The Project will be implemented by

the Statistical Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in close collaboration with the Statistics Division of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the Statistical Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will be involved as far as possible.

5. **During the one-year reporting period April 2006 – March 2007 five main actions of the Project have been organized.** During the forthcoming three months, April – June 2007 three more actions will take place. This means that eight out of 12 activities, envisaged for 2006 and 2007, in the Result Based Work Plan, Annex 2 of the Project Document, have been accomplished six months before the end of 2007.
6. In **Attachment 1** of this Report the different actions of the Project are presented. **Actions, organized during the Reporting period, are bolded.** Forthcoming activities (after March 2007) have also been enlisted in Attachment 1. Detailed information on them has been presented according to availability. Attachment 1 is based on Attachment 2 in the original Project Document.
7. The Training Actions on Population and Housing Censuses (Baku, Dushanbe) have been implemented **in fruitful cooperation with UNFPA**. In Baku the Country Office of UNFPA took care of a substantial part of the local arrangements. Besides the (main) participants from the National Statistical Offices there were also active participants from five Country Offices of UNFPA (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan). In the Dushanbe Training Workshop the Country Organizations of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan were represented. Active participation is also expected to take place in the third Training Workshop on this theme in Astana in June 2007.
8. **UNESCAP participated as a co-organizer** of the SPECA PWG Meeting on Statistics in Paris in June 2006 and will do so in the forthcoming SPECA PWG Meeting in Geneva in June 2007. UNESCAP helped to identify a specialist to act as its representative and as a resource person both in the seminars in Baku (from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS) and Bishkek (from UNESCAP) as well as a participant, representing UNESCAP in the Dushanbe Workshop. UNESCAP will act as a co-organizer in the first Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy in Bishkek in April 2007.
9. **UNSD** has kindly assisted in the organized activities by financing the travel costs of the above-mentioned specialist from ABS to the Workshop in Baku.
10. Also the **Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Eurostat and the SNA93 Revision Project Group** have kindly provided resource persons to the Training Workshops, arranged by the Project, at their own cost.
11. **Specialists, managers or directors from the NSOs of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** have taken part in all Training Workshops, organized so far. In the Baku and Dushanbe Workshop we also had participants from the NSO of **Georgia** and Turkmenistan (UNFPA, not NSO). In the Dushanbe Workshop two specialists also from the **Afghan NSO** participated. The number of participants from NSOs has usually been two and the number of participants from the hosting country clearly higher than that. CIS-STAT has been invited to the Bishkek and Dushanbe Workshops but has for financial reasons not been able to do so. The Georgian Country Office of UNFPA has made the participation of the Georgian NSO in the Census Workshops financially possible through their active support.

12. All materials of the performed actions are available in the English and Russian language to both participants and anybody else at the following web sites:
 SPECA PWG Meeting on Statistics, Paris, June 2006
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.06.speca.htm>
 Training Workshop on Census Management, Baku, October-November 2006
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.10.census.htm>
 Training Workshop on Disability Statistics, Bishkek, December 2006
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.12.health.htm>
 Training Workshop on Census Questionnaire Design, Dushanbe, March 2006
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.03.census.htm>
13. A side result of the Training Workshop organized in Baku has been an agreement on arranging a National Training Workshop on the preparations of the 2010 Round of Population Censuses in **Turkmenistan**. The cooperation partner here is the Country Office of UNFPA, Turkmenistan, which has agreed to arrange and finance the training of about 15 Census managers and staff members of the National Statistical Office of Turkmenistan. This Workshop is planned to take place in Ashgabat on the 7-12 May 2007 based on the materials produced for the Baku and Dushanbe Workshops and with the participation of three UNECE resource persons.
14. Another side result of the Project has been the active participation of specialists representing the Uzbek NSO in all so far arranged workshops, resulting, at least partly, from a letter sent to the Prime Minister of **Uzbekistan** in August 2006. The letter was sent in a situation where neither Uzbek nor Turkmen NSOs had reacted in any way to the Invitation to participate in the PWG meeting on Statistics in Paris in June 2006. After the letter there was a positive response both from the Uzbek Mission and from the State Committee on Statistics of Uzbekistan.
15. The National Institute of Statistics and Forecasting of **Turkmenistan** has until the end of the reporting period not participated in any of the organized activities. However, there is optimism that the cooperation, promoted by the UNFPA Country organization, referred to above in Para 11, will bring along a change to the positive. For the Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy, due to take place in the end of April 2007, there are now two registrations of participants Turkmenistan and a paper submitted from this country.
16. The **finances of the Project** are, at least for the moment, in a good state of affairs. The first allotment, 45 % of the total Project finances, has, in practical terms, been used by the end of March 2007. This corresponds well with the quantity of implemented activities. The number of participants and training days – and to some extent also resource persons - in the Training Workshops has been substantially larger than planned. This has been possible by both a strict policy in using the scarce resources of the Project and by UNECE having contacts making it possible to find cooperation partners, which have been willing also to finance their participation in the Project.
17. **The use of the Project funding** is, according to the IMIS Report to be seen in **Attachment 2**, the following: 81.2 % (expenditure in relation to the First Allotment of USD 173.250) and **36.5 %** (expenditure in relation to the Total Budget of the Project, USD 385,000)
18. The Project is now entering its second year and **a new allotment request for the usage of the remaining funds has been transmitted to UN Headquarters**. Besides the remaining Training Workshops, PWG meetings

and Evaluation process and possible meeting at the end of the Project, UNECE will prepare a plan of advisory services to be given to national statisticians in the Central Asian sub-region in the three focal fields of the Project.



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Attachment 1. Main activities of the StatCapCA Project

Activities organized during the Reporting period are **bolded**, forthcoming activities are written with normal text

Expected accomplishment	Main activity	Time	Place	Nr of participants	Comments
EA1: Increased capacity of the Central Asian countries to strengthen statistical services for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, including the organization of their next population censuses using regional ECE standards with specifications that are relevant to their national economic and social situation					
	A 1.1 Seminar on measurement of population and social conditions using population census	30 October–3 November 2006	Baku, Azerbaijan	28, including 18 participants from NSOs, 6 from UNFPA, 1 from ABS/UNESCAP and 3 from UNECE	
	A 1.2 Training workshop for national statisticians on new technologies for population censuses	7–8 June 2007	Astana, Kazakhstan	Together with non-Central Asian participants from CIS-STAT	Back-to-back to Joint Meeting of UNECE and Eurostat on Censuses 4 – 6

				countries and Regional offices of the Kazakh Agency of Statistics; Estimation: 40	June 2007
	A 1.3 Advisory services to national statisticians				Planned for 2008
EA2: New ECE guidelines for the 2010 round of population censuses implemented in Central Asian countries					
	A 2.1 Training workshop on implementation of new ECE recommendations	12-16 March 2007	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	44, including 12 from Regional offices of the State Statistical Office of Tajikistan, 2 from UNFPA Country offices, 1 resource person from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and 3 from UNECE	
	A 2.2 Advisory services to national statisticians				Planned for 2008
EA3: Strengthened capacity of Central Asian countries to produce and use statistics on the health status of the population					
	A 3.1 Training workshop on health status statistics for users of health statistics	Planned for October 2008	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Estimation: 10-15	Question of hosting still unsolved, will be negotiated in Ashgabat in May 2007
	A 3.2 Training workshop for statisticians on disability	13-15	Bishkek,	14, including	

	statistics	December 2006	Kyrgyz Republic	1 resource person from UNESCAP, 1 from the World Bank, 1 from the Washington Group (Chairman) and 2 from UNECE	
	A 3.3 Advisory services to national statisticians				Planned for 2007, will take place in 2008
EA4: Development and implementation of common methodologies for better coverage by national accounts aggregates of the informal sector (grey and black economy) and other forms of non-observed economic activities in Central Asian countries					
	A 4.1 Two training workshops on best practices related to non-observed economy based on the compilation of national accounts	25-27 April 2007 and April 2008	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic and Geneva	21, including 1 resource person from UNESCAP, 1 from Eurostat, 1 from the SNA93 Update Group (Project Manager) and 2 from UNECE	The second Training Workshop will take place back-to-back with a Joint UNECE-Eurostat-IMF Meeting on National Accounts
	A 4.2 Advisory services to national statisticians				Will take place in 2007 (possibly) and 2008
EA5: Improved sub-regional cooperation among Central Asian countries in the area of statistics for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals through regional					

meetings/workshops					
	A 5.1 Meetings of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics	16 June 2006, 14-15 June 2007, June 2008	Paris Geneva Paris	6, including 3 Heads and 1 Deputy Head of Central Asian NSOs, and 2 resource persons from UNECE	
	A 5.2 Study tours for members of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics concerning best management practices in official statistics	13-15 June 2006 Participation of Heads of NSOs in the seminars of the Conference of European Statisticians	Paris Geneva Paris	4, including 3 Heads and 1 Deputy Head of Central Asian NSOs	
	A 5.3 Evaluation of the Project	Autumn 2008	Possibly Tajikistan	Estimation: 8	

Attachment 2

StatCapCA
Project

Financial Report as at 31 March 2007

Object class	Description	First Allotment	Actual disbursements	Commitments outstanding	Total Expenditure	Balance remaining
604	Consultants fees & travel	7,250.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	1,250.00
608	Travel of staff	42,000.00	33,272.63	8,118.03	41,390.66	609.34
612	Contractual Services	14,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,000.00
621	Fellowship, grants and Contributions	110,000.00	31,393.97	61,879.81	93,273.78	16,726.22
	Total	173,250.00	70,666.60	69,007.84	140,664.44	32,585.56

Implementation
rate

81.2 % (Expenditure / First
Allotment)

36,5 % (Expenditure / Total Budget)