

# External Evaluation Report

on the implementation of the project

**“Strengthening the Statistical Capacity of Central Asian Countries to Monitor the Progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”  
(StatCapCA project).**

ECE-ESCAP-SPECA/PWG-Statistics/2009/3  
ECE/CES/GE57/2009/3

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23 March 2009

## I. FOREWORD

1. The evaluation report was developed according to Project Document of StatCapCA project (ECE-ESCAP-SPECA/PWG-Statistics (2006)/3 CE/CES/GE57/2006/3 dated 11.4.2006), based on terms of reference of the external evaluation assignment.
2. The evaluation of the StatCapCA project has been undertaken in January – March 2009 by the External Evaluator on the basis of consultations with Heads of the National Statistical Agencies (NSA) of all main beneficiary countries: State Committee on Statistics of the Azerbaijan Republic, Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan, State Committee on Statistics of Turkmenistan and State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as with specialists from these institutions, directly involved in the project’s activities.
3. The consultations with NSAs have been made via telephone conversations with the Heads of NSAs, other persons involved in the activities of the project and via questionnaires on each of the project’s main components. Field trips were undertaken to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, i.e. NSAs which have, to a less extent, participated in the activities of the project.
4. The evaluation process and report are based on the analysis of the progress toward expected accomplishments, using indicators of achievement set in the project document, according to the respective information provided by NSAs of beneficiary countries, mentioned in p.2, as well as some materials, elaborated by international organizations and country’s presentations in the frame of the project’s activities (the reference materials are presented in the annex ). The descriptive parts of the Evaluation Report are presented in normal text and the conclusion and recommendation parts are presented *in italics*.
5. The evaluation process was carried out in January - March 2009. The report was delivered in the end of February 2009 and will be presented in the Evaluation Meeting of the SPECA PWG on Statistics in the latter part of March 2009.
6. The evaluator expresses his gratitude to the Heads and other representatives from National Statistical Agencies of all SPECA member countries, the personnel of UNECE

Statistical Division and to a number of individuals who kindly contributed with their time and energy to this evaluation.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

7. The project has been developed by UNECE in collaboration with UNDESA, UNESCAP and UNSD, and administered by UNECE within the framework of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics.

8. The objective of the StatCapCA project has been 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 and Uzbekistan.

9. The project was focused on three statistical areas that are critical to the monitoring of the MDGs and are among the cornerstones of any statistical system, namely: (i) population and social conditions, (ii) health status of the population, and (iii) economic development.

10. The project has been conducted mainly over the years 2006 – 2008 with minor parts continued in 2009 and implemented by the Statistical Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 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) as well as The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) that was involved directly in one Project's activity.

11. In specific areas covered by the project, UNECE cooperated with other international and national statistical agencies: i) UNFPA, Eurostat, UNSD, the US Census Bureau, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Italian Statistical Bureau - in the area of population and demographic statistics; ii) The World Bank, WHO and Eurostat, as well as the Washington Group on Disability Statistics - in the area of health status statistics; (iii) OECD, Eurostat and ILO - in the area of non-observed economy statistics.

12. It is worth mentioning that in some of the areas supported by the StatCapCA project, the countries have been assisted by other projects, the activities being complementary and thus, contributing to the improvement of statistics in the respective domains. For example Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been assisted by the European Commission in TACIS projects on NOE estimations, Azerbaijan – in a TACIS project on health statistics, Kyrgyzstan has been assisted by the UNFPA and DFID on the preparation of the next Population and Housing Census etc.

## **III. THE PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **3.1. The Project's activities**

In the framework of the StatCapCA project the following main actions have been organised:

- c) training workshops (total - 7), on:

- the preparation of the 2010 round of population censuses: i) Baku, Azerbaijan (30 October- 3 November 2006) ; ii) Dushanbe, Tajikistan (12-16 March 2007); iii) Astana, Kazakhstan (7-8 June,2007);
  - disability statistics : i) Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (13-15 December 2006); ii) Bangkok, Thailand (8-10 April 2008);
  - non-observed economy : i) Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (25-27 April 2007); ii) Geneva, Switzerland (21-24 April 2008);
- d) advisory missions (4), on:
- the preparation of the 2010 round of population censuses: i) Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (August 2008); ii) Dushanbe, Tajikistan (January 2009);
  - non-observed economy : i) Dushanbe, Tajikistan (November 2007), ii) Baku, Azerbaijan (October 2008);
- e) meetings of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Statistics (3): i) Paris (June 2006); ii) Geneva (June 2007); iii) Paris (June 2008);
- f) study tours for members of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Statistics concerning best management practices in official statistics – participation of Heads of NSAs in the seminars of the Conference of European Statisticians (3): i) Paris (June 2006); ii) Geneva (June 2007); iii) Paris (June 2008).

*The actions were carried out in accordance with the Project document, with one single revision – the Training Workshop on Health Statistics initially planned to be organised in Turkmenistan/ Uzbekistan was compensated by the participation of four delegates from NSAs of two SPECA countries (Kazakhstan and Tajikistan), which had expressed at that stage a clear will of active participation in the development of disability statistics, to the UNESCAP Regional Workshop on promoting disability data collection through the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses in Bangkok in April 2008.*

In the frame of the advisory mission on Non-Observed Economy in Tajikistan (November 2007), a Seminar was carried out to deepen the knowledge of the principles and methods of measuring the Non-Observed Economy, as well as to provide information on other national accounts issues to a wider audience than can normally participate in the meetings. Using the opportunity that the TACIS project on Non-Observed Economy in Tajikistan was just at its final stage, the methodology used within the project and its first preliminary results, as well as specific issues in measuring the NOE, in particular misreporting and illegal activities and other questions related to implementation of the international standards in economic statistics (regional accounts, classifications), were also presented.

A second advisory mission on non-observed economy was carried out in Azerbaijan in October 2008.

On the preparations of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses two advisory missions have been carried out, one in August 2008 to Kyrgyzstan and one in January 2009 to Tajikistan.

Besides the mentioned above activities, an additional workshop has been organised in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, financed by funding outside the StatCapCA project (UNFPA Turkmenistan), related as to its content directly with the project. This national Training Workshop replicated, in

a country-adjusted manner, the main content of the StatCapCA Training Workshops in Baku (Autumn 2006) and Dushanbe (Spring 2007).

In the training workshops on Population and Housing Censuses it was possible to include also some countries outside the mainly targeted six SPECA countries. The NSA of Georgia was, based on funding from the UNFPA Country Organization of Georgia, able to participate in all three training workshops in this domain; the National Statistical Agency of Afghanistan participated in the two latter ones. The third training workshop on censuses was a real success with the number of participating countries more than doubled.

*According to the opinion of the National Statistical Agencies of all main beneficiary countries, the activities of the project, generally, have been well organised, the topics appropriately selected and accompanied by good presentations. The NSAs have highly appreciated the project's effort to translate the training workshop's materials into Russian. All training materials have been made easily accessible on the UNECE web-site, facilitating the understanding and absorption of new, relevant information, into the use in day-to-day activities of statisticians.*

*Especially positively has been marked the complex, comprehensive approach on the organisation of those 3 training workshops on the preparation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, namely on: i) census' planning process and management, ii) census questionnaire design and iii) census technology, with the focus on CES recommendations.*

*As mentioned by NSAs, the combination of the theoretical presentations on statistical methodologies and of the relevant experience of other countries, in particular of those with comparable economic conditions (and level of the development of statistical methods), were especially welcomed.*

The number of participants, according the NSAs, was perceived as satisfactory. The statisticians mentioned that the team of at least two participants per country allowed to better get the necessary knowledge and abilities, especially when representatives from different domains should be involved in the implementation activities (e.g. Census Technology that requires the involvement of statisticians and specialists on information and communication technologies, or the measurement of non observed economy, especially of groups of activity, such as: informal and undertaken by households for their final use).

On the other side, the limited number of participants as the core focus of beneficiary countries was only six, offered possibilities for easier and more profound discussions together with more efficient absorption of the knowledge and best practices.

*Countries, most active in the project activities have been Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. They participated in all workshops, meetings of the PWG on Statistics and study tours, organized by the project. NSA of Azerbaijan missed a meeting and a study tour, but benefited from a consultation mission (on non-observed economy). The NSA of Uzbekistan participated in all workshops, one meeting of the PWG on Statistics and one study tour. The NSA of Turkmenistan participated only in one meeting and one study tour. The weaker participation of NSAs of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan in the events is explained by internal difficulties within the countries, linked to the availability of the high management to attend meetings abroad. The NSA of Turkmenistan mentioned also that it is focusing mainly on the participation in the events organised within the country, where more people could benefit of these.*

### **3.2. Evaluation of the progress made towards expected accomplishments using indicators of achievements, set in the project document**

This sub-chapter presents the progress made and the extent to which the expected accomplishments (EA) have been met due to actions carried out in the framework of the StatCapCA project, as well as activities performed by NSAs with or without other technical assistance, based on the indicators of achievements (IA) stipulated in the project document.

#### **3.2.1. Population and Housing Census of the 2010 Round component**

**EA1 - Increased capacity of the SPECA countries to strengthen statistical services for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, including the organisation of their next population censuses using regional ECE standards with specifications that are relevant to their national economic and social situation**

*IA1.1 - Number of countries renovating the management of their next population censuses –5.*

All the SPECA countries, where a decision on carrying out a population census in the framework of 2010 Round has been taken, have also made efforts on renovating their management of the census: Azerbaijan (census will be carried out in April 2009), Kazakhstan (25 February-6 March 2009), Kyrgyzstan (24 March- 2 April 2009), Tajikistan (July-August 2010) and Turkmenistan (2012).

At this stage, in Uzbekistan a decision on a population census of the 2010 Round has not been taken yet. Nevertheless, according to the opinion of the State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the workshops, organised in the framework of the StatCapCA project have been of high importance to obtain a comprehensive picture of main activities that have to be undertaken at the preparation stage, carrying out of the field work and the activities aimed at disseminating Census' results.

*On the basis of the previous censuses experience, due to project's actions and other activities performed by the countries, in the process of the preparation for the next census, it can be noted that all five NSAs, performing the census in 2009-2012, are paying more attention to: the planning process; the elaboration of the census program in a better collaboration with main users; training of personnel and organisational issues for conducting censuses field work; the raising of public awareness through advertising of census activities; the use of modern technologies for data entry and processing/analysis; quality management and dissemination.*

All mentioned countries supplemented the census questionnaires with new questions on migration/ usual residence and housing (the second topic for the first time will be comprehensively studied in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan). Additional questions on labour force status and education are (or will be) introduced in the questionnaires of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. A completely new topic introduced in the census program of Kazakhstan on health status/disability (with a question related to mobility, hearing, vision, speaking limitations) is worth mentioning.

Additional to Kazakhstan, which used scanning method for data entry in previous population census, Turkmenistan intend also to implement new technologies for introduction and processing of data. The NSA of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will make first steps in using GIS elements, especially to extend the visual dissemination of the Census results.

It should be mentioned that the activities fulfilled in the frame of the StatCapCA project offered to beneficiary countries the essential methodological support for the preparation of Population and Housing Census. Additional consultancy and other assistance have been provided to NSAs also by other donors.

Difficulties faced:

Among difficulties encountered by the targeted NSAs during the preparation of their next population censuses the following were mentioned:

- provision with equipment and use of modern technologies for data entry, processing analysis and dissemination (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan),
- financial (Tajikistan).

***IA1.2 - Number of countries participating and establishing statistical series and enhanced information datasets for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals – 6.***

All countries are constantly paying attention to the improvement of production of official statistics, including those used for MDGs monitoring.

The NSAs of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan have the national responsibility for the monitoring of MDGs indicators. All these countries keep updated the time series with available MDGs indicators. Additionally to this, publications on specific MDGs indicators are elaborated (“Women and Men” and the Report on the Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation in Kazakhstan etc.).

Difficulties faced:

Nevertheless, NSAs are encountering some difficulties in the elaboration of MDGs indicators according to international standards. These concern the definitions that have to be adjusted to specific country conditions, as well as methodologies of compilation and availability of data sources. Below is a list of topics where difficulties have been encountered:

- Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary (in particularly NSA of Kazakhstan)
- Gender Parity Index in primary, secondary and tertiary level enrolment (in particularly NSA of Kazakhstan)
- Infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio (in particularly NSA of Tajikistan)
- Unmet need for family planning (in particularly NSA of Kazakhstan)
- Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 y.o. (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan)
- Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan)
- Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan)
- Energy use per 1\$ GDP (PPP) (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan)
- Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of all Ozone-Depleting Substances (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan)
- Proportion of the population using solid fuels (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan)
- Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources (in particularly NSA of Tajikistan)

- Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities (in particularly NSA of Tajikistan)
- Proportion of the population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan)
- Internet users per 100 people and other indicators related to Goal 8 (in particularly NSA of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan)
- Employment/unemployment indicators (in the countries where Labour Force Survey is missing).

Also, the elaboration of indicators of domestic violence and those with gender desegregation is of big interest.

However, it has to be stated that the above difficulties, counted up by countries in the evaluation process, were not directly linked with the expected accomplishments of the StatCapCA project. They reflect, however, the needs for further efforts in the field of statistical capacity building in the targeted NSAs. Besides the interest of NSAs to be assisted in solving the above mentioned problem of production of statistics, they also expressed interest in the improvement of dissemination tools and practices.

## **EA2 - New ECE guidelines for the 2010 round of population censuses are implemented in SPECA countries**

### ***IA2 - Number of countries implementing ECE recommendations in the preparation of their next population censuses - 5.***

All SPECA countries, involved in the preparation of their population censuses - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan - stated that they are following the Recommendations for the preparation of the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing of the Conference of European Statisticians.

#### Conclusions:

*The expected results of the component have been achieved. In Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan preparation activities for the 2010 year Round of Population Censuses are implemented, to a large extent, based on the CES recommendations.*

*At this stage, the date of the next population Census has not been set yet in Uzbekistan. In order not to lose the opportunity to participate in the 2010 Round Population Census a timely decision in this respect would be of great importance.*

*The activities, organised in the framework of the StatCapCA project have been of important support for all 6 beneficiary countries.*

## **3.2.2. Health Status Component**

### **EA3 - Strengthened capacity of countries to produce, disseminate and use statistics on the health status of the population**

#### ***IA3 - Number of countries moving from administrative register-based data collection to household surveys in the measurement of the health status of the population - 1 (Kazakhstan).***

As a first relevant activity in this field, the NSA of Kazakhstan has implemented a household survey on the access to health services and health status, as an ad-hoc module to household income and expenditure survey, carried out in 2008.

It should be mentioned that, the topic on *disability* (question related to walking, hearing, seeing or speaking difficulties) has been introduced in the census program of Kazakhstan.

A pilot survey on disability, foreseen for 2009 is under preparation. In this activity the NSA of Kazakhstan is supported by UNECE and UNESCAP, building also on the performed activities of the StatCapCA project. In the long run practical experience of Kazakhstan would serve for the benefit of all SPECA and other countries.

As important data sources for health statistics, the following surveys of households organised in the reference period by NSAs with the support of international organisations, such as UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO should be mentioned: The Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, 2006) and Demographic and Health Survey (Azerbaijan, 2006) with the largely disseminated results. The topic on child disability has been studied in the frame of MICS in Uzbekistan.

The survey on health status of children has been carried out by NSA of Azerbaijan in 2008, in the frame of a TACIS project.

Health statistics in SPECA countries have traditionally been based on morbidity data provided by health institutions. The information on health statistics is elaborated by NSAs on the basis of statistical questionnaires, collected by them from:

- Ministries of health and social protection, which are responsible for providing aggregated data on all state institutions, based on their registrations;
- Private institutions that provide medical assistance to population.

Some NSAs have established good partnerships in the activity of the production of health statistics. According to common practice, the questionnaires are regularly reconsidered in order to get relevant information.

New surveys of medical institutions on health statistics have also been implemented, for example:

- Survey on child morbidity and disabilities in Uzbekistan in 2007;
- Survey on the quality of health services and the provision with medicines and medical equipment in Azerbaijan in 2008.

Only limited forms of disabilities (some of the body functions and structure limitations) can be identified and measured using traditional data sources (administrative registers), administrated by health and social protection institutions. Activity limitations and participation restrictions can be accurately measured only through population-based methods (household surveys and population censuses), because they can assess the individual's functioning as a whole person, as opposed to those related to the function and structure of the body parts. So, collecting traditional data on impairments alone tend to under-describe disability and under-estimates the prevalence rate of disabilities as a whole. On the other hand, the new approach has to be understood and supported by policy makers and other users that will benefit of the reliable data on disabilities.

According to the opinion of NSAs representatives, the StatCapCA training workshop on disability statistics (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, December 2006) was interesting and important to introduce participants into the best practices on Disability Statistics and to develop the know-how in methodologies of measurement of the health status of the population. The second Workshop organized in collaboration with UNESCAP (Bangkok, Thailand, April 2008), was



attended only by representatives from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. These NSAs expressed a clear will to participate in the development of disability statistics, underlined that the second training provided a value added to the previous event in Bishkek, offering a practical training on the implementation of the global census recommendations on disability statistics.

Priorities:

Besides NSA of Kazakhstan, which already is implementing new approach on health status statistics, other SPECA countries are also interested in the development of this field of statistics. The NSA of Uzbekistan expressed its interest to study more the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), NSAs of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would like to be assisted in the implementation of ICF and launching of studies on disability statistics.

Conclusions:

*The shift of the measurement of health status from traditional methods, based on morbidity approach, to functional status, as one of objectives proposed by the Washington Group and the StatCapCA project, was and remains a challenge, the implementation of which is demanding time and other resources, and is still requiring work to receive understanding and support from data users: policy makers, public institutions, academia and individuals.*

*The first steps in the statistical community in SPECA countries concerning this important activity have now been undertaken by the StatCapCA project. Further steps will have to be taken jointly with the public authorities, responsible for the development of policies in this domain, as well as non-governmental organisations and academia institutions, so that this approach and the related concepts, as well as the disability statistics obtained, are well understood and appropriately used by the mentioned actors.*

### **3.2.3. Non-Observed Economy Component**

**EA4 - Development and implementation of common methodologies for better coverage by national accounts aggregates of the informal sector and other forms of non-observed economic activities in SPECA countries**

***IA4 - Number of SPECA countries developing and disseminating harmonised and comparable estimates of non-observed economy in their national accounts - 6.***

To ensure exhaustiveness in the national accounts (NA), all SPECA countries today make estimations of non-observed economy (NOE) on the regular basis, following the concepts defined in SNA93 and in the OECD Handbook on Measuring the NOE. From this point of view, the estimations are comparable within SPECA countries, as well as on a broader, international level.

More than that, in order to ensure the exhaustiveness of methods that all potential NOE areas are covered and no activities are double-counted, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan also use another framework, the tabular one, designed by Eurostat to facilitate comparison across countries and to improve exhaustiveness, used mainly in the EU countries (based on seven types of non-exhaustiveness).

The size of the adjustments for the non-observed economy varies widely by countries.

The share of NOE in GDP in the SPECA countries ranges from 12 % in Azerbaijan, 19% - 20 % in Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, to 26 - 30 % in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Thus, in the computations of GDP of all 6 countries, adjustments, related to the following groups of activities, are included:

- underground;
- informal;
- undertaken by households for their final use;
- deficiencies in the basic data collection systems.

The volume of adjustments for non-observed activities is biggest due to informal production, own account production for final use and underground activity. Within these sets of activities the most common sectors identified are:

- agriculture – own-account production of households for sale and for final use;
- trade - informal activities;
- production of foodstuff and other goods (beverages, processing of agriculture products, etc);
- construction – informal production in construction, own account construction;
- transport - informal transport of goods and passengers;
- housing - income from renting rooms and dwellings and imputed rent;
- health care and education - payment for services.

The peculiarity of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan regarding the reflection in NAs of informal production in agriculture (of households on their plots) is worth mentioning. These estimates are used for national accounts compilation, not being treated as part of NOE (as are measured on the basis of regular statistical surveys).

In order to ensure the quality of national accounts, the statistical offices are undertaking substantial efforts to further improve the exhaustiveness of the GDP, to capture all economic activities that fall into the production boundary of the United Nations System of National Accounts. Important progress has been achieved regarding the measurement of underground and informal activities, based on the development of tools for measurement of NOE - of new methodologies for estimation, improved use of administrative and statistical data, as well as the development of existing and implementation of new methods of data collection, in particular:

- development of the methodology and increased use of data on labour force survey and financial reports in Kazakhstan;
- improvement of methods of data collection and introduction of new surveys on informal activities (production of goods and services by households/ individuals in the following activities: agriculture, manufacture, retail trade, transportation of goods, construction, other services for population) - in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan;
- implementation of new surveys on misreporting by enterprises striving to decrease their taxable income - in Tajikistan ,
- carrying out of a pilot survey on underreporting of output or the over-reporting of intermediate consumption by enterprises striving to decrease their taxable income - in Uzbekistan in December 2008.

Illegal activities deserve a special mentioning due to the difficulties related to their estimation. Given the nature of these activities - i.e. they are forbidden by law - the problem of too few data sources and unreliable data leads to practical difficulties in the measurement. Only Turkmenistan, at this stage, regularly produces estimates for illegal activities, including them into GDP estimations.

In Tajikistan experimental estimates are made, without inclusion of adjustments in the official GDP figures. Uzbekistan is making test calculations relating to illegal activities (prostitution, drugs, smuggling of alcohol and tobacco).

The information on NOE estimations is made public via regular dissemination on NSAs web-site in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Priorities:

Depending on national peculiarities, availability and reliability of data sources (statistical and administrative), as well as of relevant experience, countries have settled some specific priorities: For the better measurement of NOE, the NSAs of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are interested to study and intend to implement the measurement of illegal activities; Turkmenistan and Tajikistan – to improve their estimations on this type of NOE; Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan - to widely use labour force and employment data. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will continue the development of methods of estimation of underground activity. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will work on the further improvement of estimation of NOE in informal sector, the enhancement of estimations by activities; Tajikistan will work on the implementation of the tabular framework of the estimation of NOE., Further assistance for the exercises mentioned above would be welcomed by the targeted NSAs.

Conclusions:

*Despite measurement difficulties, the targeted NSAs have made important progress to ensure, as far as possible, that the non-observed activities are appropriately measured and included in the GDP estimates.*

*In this respect the StatCapCA project, as well as other assistance - for example provided to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan (in the frame of the TACIS and other projects)– has been important for all six NSAs.*

*As a positive experience to ensure the production of exhaustive estimates of GDP so that all potential NOE areas are covered and no activities are double counted has been the use of the advanced tabular framework by Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, designed by Eurostat and introduced in the StatCapCA training workshops.*

*Due to the availability and reliability of data sources (statistical and administrative), national peculiarities, as well as different levels of relevant experience in the NSAs, different approaches are used. This makes comparisons between countries in some cases difficult.*

*Better exhaustiveness and comparability of NA could be achieved by the further development and use of relevant estimation methods on NOE and continuous development of relevant data collection methods and data sources within statistical systems. NSAs are interested to be supported in this activity.*

**EA5 - Improved sub-regional cooperation among SPECA countries in the area of statistics for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals through regional meetings/workshops**

***IA5 – Number of common statistical procedures involving upgrading the Millennium Development Goals statistical tracking and monitoring of indicators adopted by SPECA countries***

The StatCapCA Project has promoted the development and use of common statistical procedures in line with international standards and relevant practices on the three main domains, covered by the project: Population and Housing Census of the 2010 Round, Health status of the population and Measurement of non-observed economy.

To some extent the project has promoted better knowledge of experts from the six targeted countries with each others when bringing them together into numerous training workshops. A likewise process has taken place among Heads of statistical agencies. However, no directly tangible results can be observed in the form of increased sub-regional cooperation activities. Achievements of this sort usually demand longer time periods and it can be expected that in the future the good and friendly atmosphere that has been reported to be prevailing in the training workshops will in the long run also encourage the NSAs to increase their bi- and multilateral contacts on a sub-regional level not always necessarily needing the catalytic or organizational input of an international organization.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

*According to the objective of the StatCapCA project, important improvements have been achieved in the three main domains, especially within the preparations for the Population and Housing Census of the 2010 Round and Non-observed Economy components.*

*In Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan activities related to preparation of the 2010 round of population censuses are implemented, to a large extent, following CES recommendations. At this stage, in Uzbekistan the date of the next population Census has not yet been set.*

*Despite numerous difficulties, the NSAs have made important progress to ensure, as far as possible, that the non-observed economic activities are appropriately measured and included in the GDP estimates. As the estimates of NOE depend on the level of development of the statistical systems, the improvement of the measurement of NOE requires not only the development of methods of estimation, but also the implementation of new data collection methods, according to international standards.*

*The goal to increase the capacity of countries to produce, disseminate and use statistics on the health status of the population has been, to a smaller extent, achieved. The best results in this area have been obtained by the NSA of Kazakhstan, that in 2009 will commence to collect disability statistics via population census and regular household surveys.*

*The modest results in this domain, in comparison with others, can be explained by the fact that the implementation of measurement of health status, based on functional status, is a completely new activity for the targeted (and many other) countries, demanding time and other resources, as well as understanding, active support and contribution from users (policy makers, public institutions, academia and individuals). In this sense, activities have to be undertaken jointly with the public authorities, responsible for the development of policies in this domain, as well as non-governmental organisations and academia institutions, so that this approach, the related concepts and the disability statistics obtained, are well understood and properly used.*

*The project's actions have been carried out according to the Project document, with one single revision (see above 3.2.2). All actions of the project have had a positive impact on the development of acquaintance of national statisticians with relevant international statistical standards, the establishment of best practices and the implementation of new methods in a comprehensive set of statistical activities.*

*The objective of the project - to strengthen the statistical capacity of beneficiary countries to monitor demographic, social and economic progress towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration - has been, to a large extent, achieved.*

*To ensure the sustainability and continuity of these achievements, the targeted NSAs expressed their interest to be assisted in the future in solving the existing difficulties related to their activities of monitoring of demographic, social and economic progress toward the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and to be supported to materialise further components of their strategic plans.*

## **The reference materials, used in the elaboration of the Evaluation Report**

### **1. Project Document ECE-ESCAP-SPECA/PWG-Statistics (2006)/3 E/CES/GE57/2006/3 11.4.2006**

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.57/2006/3.e.pdf>

### **2. Terms of Reference of the Project Working Group on Statistics ECE-ESCAP-SPECA/PWG-Statistics/2006/2 ECE/CES/GE57/2006/2**

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.57/2006/2.e.pdf>

### **3. Presentations at meetings and training workshops organised in the frame of StatCapCA project :**

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>

Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy, Bishkek, April 2007

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.04.noe.htm>

Training Workshop on Census Technology, Astana, June 2007

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.06.census3.htm>

SPECA PWG Meeting on Statistics, Geneva, June 2007

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.06.speca.htm>

UNESCAP Regional Workshop on promoting disability data collection through the 2010

Population and Housing Censuses, Bangkok, April 2008

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.04.health.htm>

SPECA PWG Meeting on Statistics, Paris, June 2008

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.06.speca.htm>

### **4. Reports of the activities of the StatCapCA project, prepared by Mr. Petteri Baer, Project Manager of the StatCapCA project:**

For the period April 2006 – March 2007

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.57/2007/3.e.pdf>

For the period April 2006 – February 2008

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.57/2008/2.e.pdf>

Development account progress report, April 2006 -January, 2009

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.57/2009/mtg1/zip.4.e.pdf>

**5. CES Recommendations for 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses**

[http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/CES\\_2010\\_Census\\_Recommendations\\_English.pdf](http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/CES_2010_Census_Recommendations_English.pdf)

**6. Non-observed Economy in National Accounts: Survey of Country Practices, UNECE, New York and Geneva, 2008**

<http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/NOE2008.pdf>

**7. The overview of the estimations of non-observed activities for GDP compilation in the CIS countries, CIS, Statistical bulletin nr.9, 2008**

**8. MDG monitor, United Nations**

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/factsheets.cfm>

**9. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Childinfo, UNICEF**

[http://www.childinfo.org/mics3\\_surveys.html](http://www.childinfo.org/mics3_surveys.html)

**10. Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Measure DHS**

[http://www.measuredhs.com/aboutsurveys/search/search\\_survey\\_main.cfm?SrvyTp=country](http://www.measuredhs.com/aboutsurveys/search/search_survey_main.cfm?SrvyTp=country)