

External evaluation of the UNDA project “**Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics**” (June 2019)

Final Progress report as at 30 June 2021

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	To provide support [to the national statistical systems of the beneficiary’s countries] in revising their statistical legislation in line with the Generic Law of official statistics (for the countries which didn’t revise the statistical legislation) and to provide support for implementing the new legislation where needed.	UNECE accepts the recommendation. Support will be provided to countries on request, and within the limits of available budgets and resources.	Regional Adviser on Statistics	Implemented in June 2020	Support has been provided to Belarus and Georgia, in the form of recommendations for revisions to statistical legislation, in the Global Assessments of their national statistical systems, conducted during 2019. Support regarding the revision of statistical legislation was requested by Uzbekistan, but the proposed advisory mission had to be cancelled due to the UN cash-flow crisis.
2	To provide advices and support [to the national statistical systems of the beneficiary’s countries] for further implementation of Global Assessments’ recommendations from the first round of GAs and to follow up the implementation activities.	UNECE accepts the recommendation. Advice and support to implement recommendations will be provided to countries on request, and within the limits of available budgets and resources.	Regional Adviser on Statistics	Implemented in June 2020	Support has been provided to Armenia and Georgia in the form of expert reviews of their statistical information technology systems, in response to recommendations made in the Global Assessments for those countries
3	To continue the programme of Global Assessments of national statistical systems, to finalise the new round that was started and to follow up the implementation of the GAs’ recommendations.	UNECE accepts the recommendation. The programme of global assessments is continuing on request from the countries, and within the limits of available resources.	Regional Adviser on Statistics	Implemented in July 2021	The Global Assessment in Georgia was finalised in 2019. The Global Assessment in Belarus was finalised in early 2020. The Global Assessment in Kyrgyzstan was finalised in July 2021, after some delays due to the Covid-19 crisis. A Global Assessment in Turkmenistan is planned for 2022.

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4	<p>Within its mandate, working together with other international organisations, as well as the local UNDP office in Ashgabat, [UNECE] to continue making efforts and to find ways to bring State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (Turkmenstat) more into international initiatives in order to ensure more active participation of Turkmenistan in international cooperation and especially participation of representatives from SSC Turkmenistan in international and sub-regional workshops, seminars and other type of capacity building events as well as in future similar projects.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will continue to engage with Turkmenstat and the UN country team in Turkmenistan to encourage greater involvement of Turkmenstat in international statistical activities.</p> <p>As capacity development activities are strictly demand-driven, follow-up activities will depend on requests from Turkmenistan. However, UNECE will continue to seek ways to fund participants from Turkmenistan to attend relevant international meetings, and will use events such as the annual UNECE / Eurostat / EFTA High-level Seminar for EECCA countries (the 2019 seminar is on 24-26 September in Chisinau) to engage with senior managers from Turkmenstat to try to identify capacity development priorities.</p>	<p>Regional Adviser on Statistics</p>	<p>Implemented in September 2020</p> <p>The UNECE Regional Adviser in Statistics met a representative of the UN country team for Turkmenistan in November 2019 and discussed how to increase the engagement of the national statistical office in international activities. The UN country team advocated with the Turkmen government for a Global Assessment of the National Statistical System which is now underway.</p> <p>UNECE, with partners EFTA and Eurostat, supported senior representatives from the Turkmen statistical office to attend the joint UNECE / Eurostat / EFTA High-Level Seminar on Statistical Capacity Development for EECCA countries, held on-line in September 2020.</p>	
5	<p>When planning a project, [UNECE] to have more advisory missions and more intensive professional and diplomatic contacts in order to ensure full participation of the countries that are intended beneficiaries.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Projects should be demand-driven, so it makes sense to ensure that beneficiary countries are fully engaged from the outset.</p> <p>The Statistical Division will ensure that project managers take the necessary steps to make sure that</p>	<p>Regional Adviser on Statistics</p>	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project</p>	

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		beneficiary countries are fully engaged and committed to project activities from the outset of all future projects.			
6	When running a project, UNECE should ensure that all required documentation, such as mission reports, events documentation, related correspondence and similar are received, collated and deposited in a designated place in accordance with the prescribed procedures.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Statistical Division will ensure that project managers will be reminded of this for all future projects, particularly in cases where project managers are leaving their post.</p>	Statistical Division	Implemented in December 2020	ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project
7	UNECE to examine the possibilities within the existing procedures and tools, for each project activity, in addition to the amounts of expenses breakdown by type, to keep evidence on expenses by activity and source of financing (as information given on some workshops in some mission reports or activity concept note).	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Statistical Division will ensure that project managers keep appropriate financial records to supplement what is recorded in the UMOJA system, for all future projects.</p>	Statistical Division	Implemented in December 2020	ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project
8	From the very beginning of a project, to have a deputy Project manager or other designated person who will take the over the management of a running project in case of Project manager departure from UNECE. The deputy Project manager or other designated person has to be involved in and familiar with the project from the very beginning in order to ensure smooth continuation of the project in case when the Project manager lives the project	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>It is not always feasible to have designated deputy project managers, particularly for smaller projects. Project managers will be requested to have contingency plans in place in case of their departure mid-project, and to ensure that project documentation is kept up to date to facilitate a smooth handover in such</p>	Statistical Division	Implemented in December 2020	ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project

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		<p>cases.</p> <p>The Statistical Division will ensure that effective contingency planning is included in all future projects.</p>			