

International Technical Support

Newsletter No. 6, June 2016 - INSEE, France



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Logo of UN Sustainable Development Goals

Editorial

This issue number 6 of the International Technical Cooperation newsletter includes a special report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These are goals that the United Nations are encouraging States to achieve, and which consist in “ending poverty, fighting against inequality and injustice and tackling climate change by 2030”.

It will not be a simple matter to implement these goals, certainly not for National Statistical Institutes (NSIs).

For each of the seventeen SDGs there are several targets which must be defined, then calculated, and this represents a real statistical challenge. However, this hard work will also be an opportunity to strengthen the skills of NSIs in developing countries.

The report in this newsletter gives an overview of the international cooperation actions undertaken in this area by INSEE to provide technical support for some partner countries.

Readers will find an interview with an expert from the Statistical Office of the Ministry of the Environment about a mission to Kazakhstan last autumn covering energy statistics, in the context of a twinning project funded by the World Bank.

In this issue we also take the opportunity to report on the European twinning project with Ukraine, which came to an end last December, and the call for tenders for a European funded service contract for the Serbian NSI, which was awarded at the end of 2015 to a consortium in which INSEE and Expertise France took part.

We also focus on the seminar on seasonal adjustment organised last November for the Senegalese NSI, with financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

And finally, the newsletter provides a series of short news items to keep you up to date with all of INSEE's international cooperation actions during H2 2015. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Seminar organised at CEFIL on using census data to monitor SDGs

From 6 to 10 July 2015, Afristat and INSEE organised a seminar at the INSEE Training Centre in Libourne (CEFIL) on social statistics.

This choice of topic was guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new 2015-2024 round of population and housing censuses, adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

The seminar was aimed at statisticians from French-speaking countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, and brought together about fifteen managers involved in producing demographic and social data in the NSIs of the eight Afristat Member States and the Statistics Division of the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA).

The central theme of the seminar was exploiting and using population census and housing data in order to monitor Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Claire Plateau, INSEE expert on issues related to the SDGs, presented the main stages in the participatory and consultative process for these goals at international level.

This subject is not new in Africa: the previous programme to combat poverty, set up by the United Nations over the period 2000-2015 and based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), concerned only developing countries, and thus included the countries of Africa.

However, even the UN now admits that the MDGs have had only limited success and that there is still progress to be made. This is one reason why it is hoped that the new SDGs, while following on from the MDGs, will be more ambitious and universal.



From left to right: Mr Jean-Claude MUKADI MUKUNA, Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC), Ms Madeleine MUZEBEDI MUMBODJI (RDC), M. Youssoufa LAMOU (Niger) and Mr Gaptou MAI MOUSSA (Niger)

Population and housing census: a tool linked directly to the SDGs

France has long-standing experience with population and housing censuses.

After the last exhaustive census in 1999, INSEE has carried out an annual survey since 2004, partly by means of surveys, to continue to obtain information on the diversity and evolution of the French population.

The Institute's strategy in terms of census data dissemination is based mainly on making these data and statistical studies freely available. The French legal framework, and the goals and challenges of the census in terms of public land development policy were presented during the seminar.

The global programme on population and housing censuses encourages every country in the world at least to carry out a population count in the course of the decade.

At the end of the 2010 round of this programme, which covered

2005-2014, 93% of the world population had been counted in 214 countries.

However, there were a dozen African countries that were unable to complete this operation during the round. For example, the last census in the Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC) dates back to 1984!

The 2010 round of censuses included some methodological innovations, whether in terms of data collection processing or exploitation. During the seminar, participants were able to describe their recent experiences in this area. This was the case for Ivory Coast, for example, where they used electronic tablets for data collection during the general population and housing census (RGPH) in 2014.

In those African countries where a population census was able to be carried out recently, the survey questionnaire often dealt with many questions on individuals and households, and covered a variety of topics such as health, education, housing, migration, agriculture, etc.

These data were analysed to produce detailed statistics and analyses in all these areas. The representative from Niger described the process of producing thirteen volumes, published by the NSI from the RGPH-2012, each one dealing with a specific subject.



Mr Fabrice DANIELOU, at that time statistician at the INSEE Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Picardie Regional Directorate



Mr Michel DAVID, project manager in the Regional Action department at INSEE

The dissemination plan seems to vary little from one country to another, often taking the form of theme-based reports like those produced by Niger.

For this country and for so many others, the task is huge and they need a great deal of help to streng-

then their skills if they are to successfully publish such works.

Collaboration between countries, especially between countries in the South, was emphasised and encouraged. Ivory Coast, like Senegal or Cape Verde, intervenes either to provide direct support to neighbouring countries, or during regional workshops organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As the new 2020 round of censuses is carried out, this should strengthen the introduction of such innovations.

There was much discussion, enriching the debate surrounding census operations, raising participants' awareness of the new global sustainable development programme, and finally, providing encouragement for the network of African statisticians responsible for producing statistical indicators for monitoring SDGs.

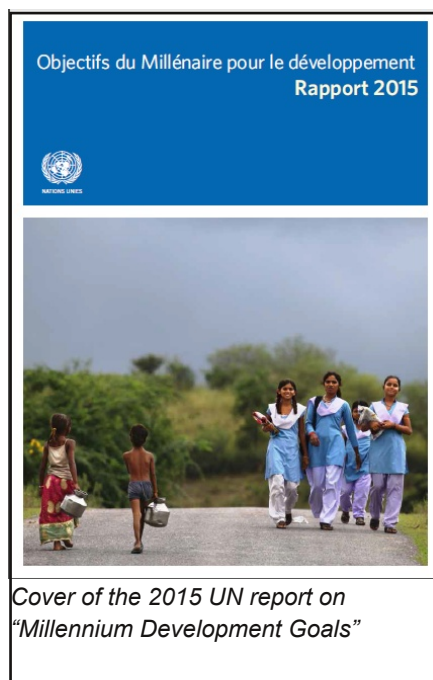
► Constance TORELLI

Sustainable Development Goals

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), after a long round of global and multi-institutional consultations on the Sustainable Development programme.

A new international framework on sustainable development by 2030

Following on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), (2000-2015), the new international framework for sustainable development (Agenda 2030) is based on a principle of organising society which takes into account the planet's limited resources and which acts in three interdependent dimensions: environment, society and economy. It is made up of a set of 17 global goals (see Text 2b) to "end poverty, fight against inequality and injustice and tackle climate change by 2030".



Cover of the 2015 UN report on "Millennium Development Goals"

Key points to remember regarding the SDGs, compared with the MDGs:

- all countries are concerned by the SDGs, whereas the MDGs targeted only developing countries;

- the SDGs include new development dimensions, which the MDGs did not focus on;
- the process for developing the SDGs is truly participatory at global level, which was not the case for the MDGs;
- instead of 8 goals, 20 targets and 62 indicators for the MDGs, statisticians have now defined 17 goals, 169 targets and almost 230 indicators for the SDGs.

Setting up and monitoring the indicators associated with the SDGs will occupy national and international institutions and guide their work for the coming years, especially the National Statistical Institutes.

INSEE's commitment to the SDG process

In 2009, INSEE contributed to the work of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission on measuring economic performance and social progress.

Since then, our Institute has put a great deal of work into the different groups set up by the United Nations on these topics: Co-President of the Friends of the Chair, participation in the Inter-Agency Expert Group for Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs).

The latter includes 28 members representing the different regions of the world in a balanced way. Its task was to propose a list of indicators, and these were put before the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016.

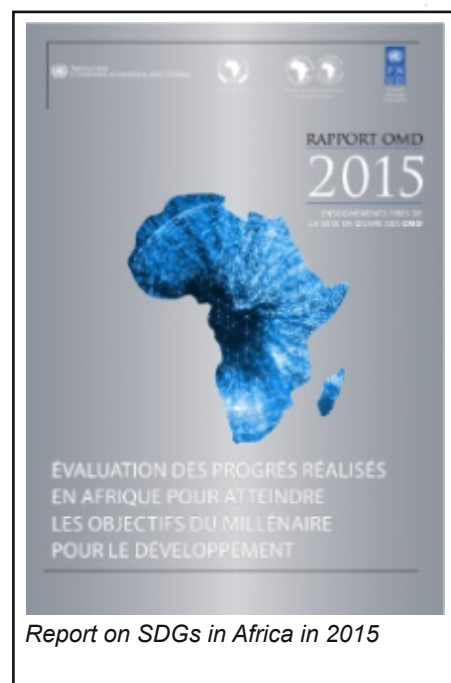
This text should then be adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and finally at the next UN summit for heads of state in September 2016.

Ms Claire Plateau (National Accounts department), INSEE's expert responsible for this report and who represents us in international working groups, is finalising the definition of the indicators.

This last phase consists in collecting together and summarising consultations with the different INSEE departments and the Ministerial Statistical Offices affected by the SDGs.

At international level, the process will be led by the countries that provide and validate data. Finally, statistical reports on the SDGs will be produced at global, regional and national levels.

► *Constance TORELLI*



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

. 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

. 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

. 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

. 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

. 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

. 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

. 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

. 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

. 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

. 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries



Logos of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

. 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

. 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

. 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

. 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

. 15 - Protect, restore and pro-

mote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

. 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

. 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Need to anticipate to successfully implement the SDGs: example of Benin

From 17 to 20 November 2015, two experts from INSEE carried out a mission at the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) in Cotonou¹ (Benin).



INSAE building, the Benin statistical institute, in the Haie Vive district of Cotonou

The mission was part of the follow-up from a seminar organised at CEFIL (see article in this newsletter).

The main aim was to set up an action plan to construct and implement indicators associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The mission was organised in the form of working sessions with the heads of the demographic and social statistics directorate at INSAE.

In addition to data from the 4th population and housing census, carried out in 2013, INSAE has a corpus of household surveys, the most recent of which are the integrated modular survey on household living conditions (EMICoV-2015) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-2014), focusing on health, education and mortality.

On examining the questionnaires, two very distinct groups of SDG could be identified: those which are already well covered by the statistical apparatus (goals 3, 5 and 10) and another group for which Benin is not yet in a position to produce a single indicator (goals 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15)².

In some cases, it is not possible to calculate these indicators as such. The different scenarios were discussed: identifying what are called “proxy” variables (which give a good approximation of the required indicator, when the indicator itself is not available), surveys that needed to be put in place to produce indicators, and identifying the institutions where these indicators would be produced.

The next task was to produce a model identity card for each indicator. First, the team focused on Goal no. 3 of the SDGs (healthy lives and well-being for all). INSAE must continue with this in-depth examination by producing an identity card for all the other indicators.

Coordination between the different administrative structures was also addressed during discussions with the INSAE team. A Ministry was created in Benin in 2013, to work on setting up and monitoring the SDGs. This highlights the importance placed on this subject by the Benin government.



View of the Haie Vive district, Cotonou, Benin

This work will continue remotely by exchanging information electronically. Further actions such as a support mission or training session will be organised in collaboration with Afristat.

► *Constance TORELLI and Fabrice DANIELOU*

1. Cotonou is the economic capital of Benin; the official capital is Porto-Novo.

2. For the record (see list of goals in this newsletter), goals 3, 5 and 10 concern health and inequalities, goals 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 concern economic infrastructure, consumption and the environment.

Regional seminar on SDGs in Cairo

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), responsible for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), organised a regional seminar on this topic in Cairo (Egypt) from 14 to 16 December 2015.



Participants at the regional seminar on SDGs, Arab League headquarters

The meeting brought together about twenty representatives from National Statistical Institutes and intergovernmental institutions of the Arab League member states. INSEE was also invited to attend.

The presentations focused on the following topics: progress with dashboards for development indicators produced by the countries in this zone; difficulties encountered in creating databases, mainly due to certain data not being available; quality of data collected; calculating the corresponding indicators.

With the SDGs, all countries must

prepare a national strategic plan, and a regular report must be produced.

The European Union also has its own sustainable development strategy (Europe 2020 Strategy), defined at national level.

It is likely that this strategy will be revised after countries adopt the United Nations list of SDGs at the General Assembly at the end of 2016.

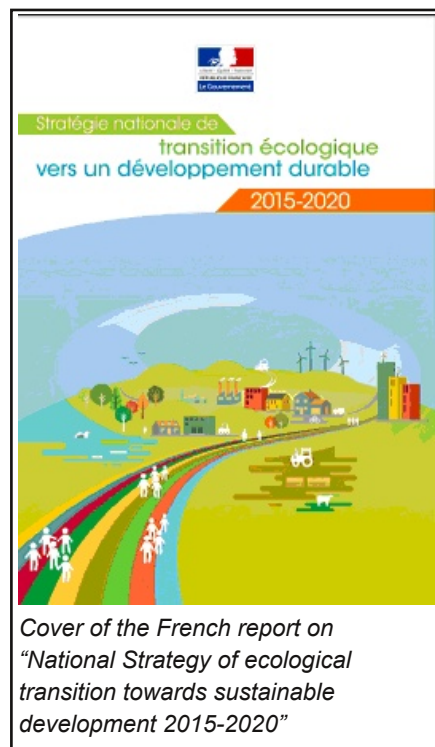
Virtually all Member States have produced National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS).



Headquarters building of the Arab League, Cairo, Egypt

The expert from INSEE who attended this seminar presented the European approach and in particular the case of France with the National Strategy of ecological transition towards sustainable development (SNTEDD³) 2015-2020.

A description of the production process and coordination between the different stakeholders was included in the discussions, especially the key role of the official statistical system in the process.



Cover of the French report on "National Strategy of ecological transition towards sustainable development 2015-2020"

► Constance TORELLI

3. <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/La-strategie-nationale-de-42115.html>

Eleventh African Symposium on Statistical Development

The meeting of the African Union (AU) commission of the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes (NSI) was held from 26 to 28 November 2015 in Libreville (Gabon), during the 11th African Symposium on Statistical Development. Out of 54 African countries, representatives from 41 AU member states attended this meeting.

African statistics are currently un-

dergoing changes that will permanently modify the landscape in the coming years: setting up a training centre and a Pan-African statistical institute, statistical development strategies to meet the growing demand for information on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), harmonisation of statistics at Pan-African level, transition to the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, etc.



Eleventh Symposium on Statistical Development, Libreville, Gabon

All these subjects were addressed at this meeting and sparked a great deal of discussion.

Cooperation by INSEE in sub-Saharan Africa, conducted in close collaboration with Afristat, can be seen in most of these areas.

INSEE's participation in the Pan-African Statistics project (see article on this subject in no. 5 of this newsletter) should provide an opportunity to extend its work and increase the use of the ERETES tool for preparing national accounts to the English-speaking countries of Africa.

The new global sustainable development programme has long been a subject for debate, especially ways to implement the SDGs and strengthen capacities in the NSIs.



Participants at the 11th Symposium on Statistical Development

Included in the new global goals is the theme of governance and how to measure it (goal no. 16).

An original approach, which is based on a survey mechanism - Governance, Peace and Security (GPS) modules - has been tested by several pilot countries in Africa (Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape

Verde, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Madagascar, Uganda) and was presented by the Director-General of the Ivory Coast NSI.

This presentation highlighted the fact that the developing countries, especially in Africa, are more advanced than the developed countries in terms of methodology for collecting data on governance.

► *Constance TORELLI*

World Statistics Congress ISI2017

The 61st World Statistics Congress (ISI2017) will be organised by the International Institute of Statistics and the Moroccan High Commission for Planning, in Marrakech, from 16 to 21 July 2017.

This congress, which should bring together more than 2,500 participants, provides a real opportunity for the international statistical community to discuss recent developments in statistics, and also to promote the exchange of good

practice and boost networking.

The scientific programme will consist of three types of session: invited paper sessions (IPS), special topic sessions (STS), and contributed paper/poster sessions (CPS); there will also be round table discussions, seminars and training courses.

In addition, there will be a social programme to enable participants to discover the special historic and cultural features of Marrakech.

There are two key dates to bear in mind for submitting proposals: from 15 March to 15 August 2016 for the special topic sessions (STS) and from 15 September 2016 to 15 February 2017 for the contributed paper/poster sessions (CPS).

<http://www.isi2017.org>



Interview with Didier Reynaud, expert on energy statistics

From 28 September to 2 October 2015, two experts from the energy statistics sub-directorate of the SOeS undertook a mission to the Kazakhstan Statistical Committee, within the framework of a twinning arrangement financed by the World Bank. French official statistics are participating in this project, managed by Destatis, the German statistical institute.



From left to right: Ms Dinara SHAYAKHMETOVA, expert, Energy and Services Statistics Unit, Committee for statistics (CS); Mr Didier REYNAUD, expert on energy statistics, SOeS (Observation and statistics service, French Ministry for the Environment, Energy and the Sea), Ms Ainur ADILOVA, expert, Energy and Services Statistics Unit, CS; Ms Céline ROUQUETTE, former Deputy Director for Energy statistics (SOeS); Ms Zifa YAKUPOVA, Head of the Energy and Services Statistics Unit, CS; Mr Zhanbol EULOSILOV, expert, Energy and Services Statistics Unit, CS

What was the subject of your mission?

Kazakhstan is part of a cooperation project to strengthen its official statistical system and especially energy statistics. The French sub-directorate responsible for energy statistics welcomed a delegation from Kazakhstan in October 2014, then sent two experts to Astana from 28 September to 2 October 2015, for an additional support mission focusing specifically on renewable energies.

This mission was an opportunity to present the work of all the different sections of the energy statistics sub-directorate, from data collection to the various ways of applying the statistics, and especially the accounting summary that makes up an energy balance. Following the recent overhaul of their information system, the Kazakh team were keen to make improvements in the data that they pass on to the International Energy Agency.

There was particular emphasis on renewable energy. This currently represents less than 1% of the Kazakh energy package. Kazakhstan already has substantial resources, and plans to accelerate energy development, especially as Astana will soon be hosting the universal exhibition Expo 2017, the theme of which is future energy.

Which are the sustainable development indicators that the SOeS monitors regarding energy and what are the corresponding data sources? (statistical surveys, administrative sources, etc.)

The national strategy for an ecological transition towards sustainable development 2015-2020 was adopted in the Council of Ministers on 4 February 2015. Four main ecological issues were identified: climate change, accelerated biodiversity loss, resources becoming rare and environmental health risks. To meet this challenge, actions and levers were proposed and a set of 72 evaluation indicators was put in place.

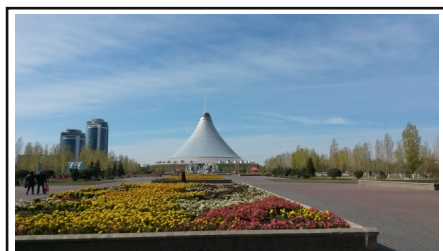
Six of these are particularly energy-related and are used to monitor:

- fossil fuel consumption;
- price of raw materials: oil and gas;
- change in final total energy consumption and by sector and

- change in energy intensity;
- share of nuclear energy in electricity production;
- share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption;
- share of renewable origin electricity consumption nationally and by region.

In order to monitor these indicators, many data sources are involved, such as:

- statistical surveys by the SOeS (annual survey of electricity production, gas statistics survey, annual survey of heating and cooling networks, etc.) and by INSEE (annual survey on industrial energy consumption, housing survey, etc.);
- or administrative sources from transport network and electricity distribution operators: EDF, Directorate-General of Customs and Excise, Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), etc.



Khan Shatyr (shopping and entertainment centre), designed by the British architect Norman Foster, for Astana, Kazakhstan. This building in the shape of a yurt is 150m high with a surface area of 140,000m².

► Interview by Serge DARRINÉ

4. Observation and statistics service, Ministry for the Environment, energy and the sea.
5. The headquarters of the IEA is in Paris.
6. <https://expo2017astana.com/fr>
7. <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/indicateurs-indices/li/indicateurs-nationaux-transition-ecologique-vers.html>

Report on European twinning with Ukraine

From November 2013 to December 2015, the Ukrainian NSI, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), was part of a twinning operation based on European funding, with the aim of supporting the development process of this institute, to strengthen their statistical capacities and production.



From left to right (photo taken in February during one of the Steering Committees in 2015): Mr Philippe BERTRAND, Sector manager, EU Delegation to Ukraine; Ms Dominique FRANCOZ, Junior Project Leader and Head of the International Technical Cooperation Division at INSEE, France; Ms Yulia MUYCHENKO, RTA counterpart, Head of International Cooperation Directorate; Ms Natalia VLASENKO, BC Project Leader, Adviser to Chair of the SSSU; Ms Svitlana TARANOVA, RTA interpreter; Ms Olga BURBELO, RTA assistant; Ms Irina BERNSTEIN, Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA), Statistics Denmark; Mr Jesper Ellemtose JENSEN, MS Project Leader, Statistics Denmark; Mr Yan YAKUSHCHENKO, Head of Twinning coordination sector Center for Adaptation of the Civil Service to the Standards of the European Union

This is a joint project by the SSSU and the Danish NSI, Statistics Denmark, and in cooperation with INSEE as junior partner, and also with the NSIs of four more European Union Member States: Statistics Lithuania, the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Statistics Finland and the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics.

A representative from Statistics Denmark, Ms Irina Bernstein, was the resident consultant for the twinning and she was employed at the

SSSU in Kiev for the duration of the project, in order to organise and manage it.

The three project heads in Kiev, Copenhagen and Paris were, respectively: Ms Iryna Zhuk (SSSU), Mr Jesper Ellemtose Jensen (Statistics Denmark) and Ms Dominique Francoz, head of INSEE's International Technical Cooperation Section and thus head of the junior project.

The contribution of each partner country, with activity measured in "man-days", was as follows for the entire period of the twinning:

92 operations in 17 components, with INSEE present in 7 of them

With 92 operations (missions or study visits) completed since the start of the twinning project, all the components that were originally planned (of which there were 17) were implemented in full or partially, and those involved considered that this was a very satisfactory result, given the difficult political situation in Ukraine.

	number of man-days	in %
Statistics Lithuania	98	35
Statistics Denmark*	72	25
INSEE	65	23
CSO Latvia	24	8
Statistics Finland	13	5
ONS (United Kingdom)	11.5	4
Total	283.5	100

* excluding the resident consultant

Contribution of partner countries to the twinning

With their contribution of 65 man-days (i.e. 23% of the total number of days allocated to the project), INSEE was one of the three largest contributors after Statistics Lithuania and Statistics Denmark.

INSEE participated in the following 7 components: national accounts, consumer price indices, producer price indices, short-term statistics, foreign trade statistics, business registers and training staff in data collection.

The other components of the twinning operation covered the following themes: structural business statistics, agricultural statistics, sample surveys, user satisfaction indices, direct foreign investment, household living conditions, communication, image and internet.

Law on SSSU independence approved

Finally, a few days before the closing seminar of the twinning operation (November 2015), the Ukrainian Government adopted a draft law "on amendments to certain laws of Ukraine governing statistical activity by the State".

This law defines the SSSU as a central executive body with a special status, based on principles of professional independence.

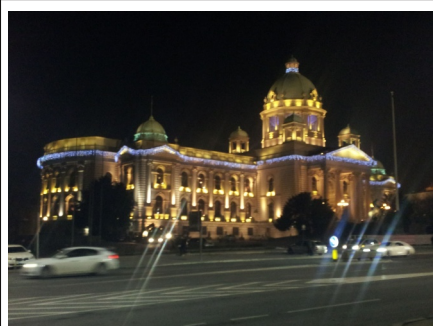
This will ensure the implementation of international legal commitments made under the Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine (ratified by Ukraine on 16 September 2014) and will create conditions that are more appropriate for official statistics activities.

The next stage is likely to be the adoption of this draft law by the Supreme Council of Ukraine and a revised legal framework will effectively ensure the political and professional independence of the SSSU.

► Serge DARRINÉ

Service contract with Serbia

In December 2015, a consortium of which INSEE was a member, led by GOPA, the German consulting group, was awarded a tender for a service contract with European funding (EuropeAid) to work with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), the Serbian NSI.



Night view from the Serbian National Assembly building, at 13 place Nikola Pašić in Belgrade

The award was 3.4 million euros, the aim of the project being to

strengthen the Serbian statistical system by improving their methods and standards and putting a code of practice in place.

In addition to INSEE, the consortium led by GOPA includes the following public and private bodies: Expertise France, ISTAT, Statistics Netherlands, and also Atos and Eurlink Consultants, which are digital consulting and service companies.

The programme consisted of three sections:

1. Upgrading the information and communication technology system;
2. Improving the national accounting system;
3. Developing a set of indicators for the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

INSEE, assisted by Expertise

France, dealt with the national accounting and SDG sections, with a key expert (Jacques Magniez, formerly assistant head of the National Accounts department) and about fifteen short-term senior and junior experts, mainly from INSEE but also from the Ministries for Agriculture and Sustainable Development.

► Serge DARRINÉ



Belgrade Fortress, located in Kalemegdan Park (and Danube in the background)

Seasonal adjustment seminar in Senegal

Mr Dominique Ladiray, INSEE expert in seasonal adjustment in the Statistical Methods department, carried out a mission in Dakar (Senegal) in November 2015, chairing a seminar for managers from the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD), the Senegal national statistical institution.

This seminar was financed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the purpose of helping ANSD publish their quarterly national accounts data with seasonal adjustments (SA).

The calendar in Senegal includes a certain number of public holidays determined by the Islamic calendar (also called the Hijri calendar), where dates differ from year to year against the Gregorian calendar.

However, the seasonal adjustment software normally used has basically been designed for the needs of western countries, where the civil and religious calendars are more easily combined.

In France, for example, the calendar has only a small number of pu-



Left to right, front row:

Mr Modou Ndour FAYE, Head of the Office of Syntheses and Analytical Studies (BSEA) at the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) in Senegal; Ms Ramlatou DIALLO, expert at BSEA; Ms Ly Bintou DIAC, expert at BSEA; Mr Mouhamed NDIAYE, expert at the Office of Short-term surveys (ANSD);

second row:

Mr Mamadou Ngalgou KANE, Head of the national accounting, syntheses and analytical studies division (ANSD)

blic holidays and these fall on set days (such as Bastille Day on 14 July) or, when this is not the case, they can be calculated using simple algorithms (such as Easter Monday and the religious holidays associated with Whit Monday and the Thursday of Ascension Day).

To take the needs of Muslim countries into account, some specific processing has to be introduced, as their religious calendar is based on the phases of the moon and includes one month, Ramadan, during which production and consumption are very much affected.

This five-day seminar included a large proportion of practical work, as D. Ladiray suggested that colleagues from ANSD work on their own data series. The public consisted of managers from the quarterly accounts department, and from the short-term index department, which provides data for the quarterly national accounts.

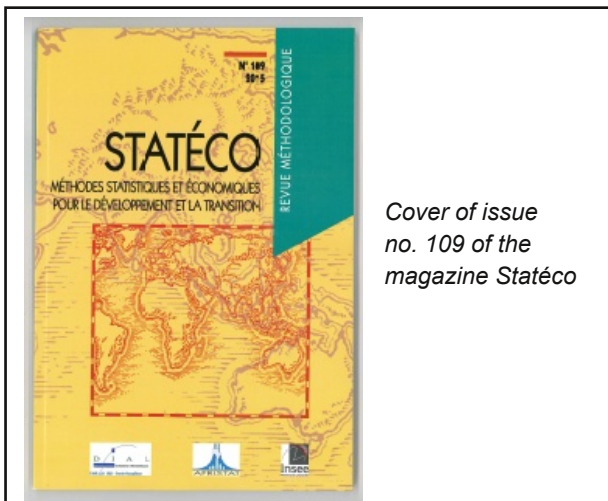
All this work was done using JDe-metra+, the European seasonal adjustment software developed with support from Eurostat and the European Central Bank.

► Serge DARRINÉ

No. 109 of Statéco just published

The main article in this new issue covers relations between demographic and economic dynamics in Africa, by focusing on the role of the labour market and migrations.

In addition to this special report, there is an article on an ongoing experiment on producing governance, peace and security (GPS) statistics across Africa.



Cover of issue
no. 109 of the
magazine Statéco

<http://www.auteurs.insee.fr/fr/insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=insee-activites/stateco.htm>

Ms Sylvie Lagarde, new director of INSEE's Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate

On 11 January 2016, Sylvie Lagarde was appointed Director of the Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate (DMCSI) at INSEE. She succeeded Stéphane Gregoir, who has moved on to become Dean of the School of Economics at Toulouse Capitole University.

The International Technical Cooperation Section, responsible for international cooperation at INSEE, is part of the DMCSI.



*Ms Sylvie LAGARDE, Director of
INSEE's Methodology, Statistical
Coordination and International
Relations Directorate*

Sylvie Lagarde was an INSEE Regional Director in Île-de-France from 2011. Between 2006 and 2011, she was head of the Employment and Earnings Department at the Institute.

She graduated from the École Polytechnique, and the French National School of Statistics and Economic Administration (ENSAE) and holds an MSc degree in Econometrics from the London School of Economics.

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Editorial manager: Raoul Depoutot

Editor-in-Chief : Serge Darriné

Collaborators: Jean-Samy Aziz, Sophie Bourrel, Fabrice Danielou, Serge Darriné, Dominique Francoz, Sylvie Lagarde, Jean Louis, Constance Torelli.

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cooperation-international@insee.fr

Europe and Asia

Serbia

Human Resource management

In September, the deputy director of SORS, the Serbian NSI, came to INSEE for a study visit on human resource management. Discussions with experts from the Human Resources Development Department covered initial and continuing training, and also recruitment and professional pathways.



Mr Zoran JANČIĆ, Assistant Director of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) and Ms. Magali DEMOTES-MAINARD, at that time head of the Human Resources Development Division

Internet and external communication

In October, INSEE was host to a delegation from SORS who came on a study visit to work with experts from the Dissemination and Regional Action Directorate (DDAR) and discuss questions relating to Internet and external communication. The following points were dealt with: INSEE's response to requests from researchers and journalists, the use of social media (e.g. Twitter) and press kits, the satisfaction survey of INSEE users, the project to create a new website and its design based on user needs, dissemination of databases (including macroeconomic database) and services available via the present website, and the use of SDMX standards for data exchange between organisations.

Foreign trade

In the same month, a delegation from SORS arrived on a study visit to the Directorate-General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI) in Toulouse and Montreuil, to meet



From left to right: Ms Vesna ARALICA, Interpreter (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, SORS); Ms Aleksandra DANILOVIĆ, Advisor, Unit for Information and Dissemination (SORS); Mr Serge DARRINÉ (INSEE); Ms. Olja MUSIĆ, Head of Division for Development of Applicative Software (SORS); Ms. Branka PANTIĆ, Head of Web Development and Maintenance Unit (SORS); Ms. Sanja AKSENTIJEVIĆ, Head of the Unit for Information and Dissemination (SORS)

experts in foreign trade statistics. The following points were addressed: checking data at detailed and semi-aggregated levels, a posteriori adjustments, checks associated with regulations (especially for sources external to the Customs department), plausibility checks for the trade balance.

Profiling

In November, an expert from the Business Statistics Directorate (DSE) went on a mission to SORS to cover the profiling of groups of companies. The following points were dealt with: sources for legal units and groups in Serbia, profiling in France and Europe, top-down profiling, profiling strategy in France, the impact of profiling on the representation of the economy, the SORS management tool for groups.



Mr Vincent HECQUET, INSEE profiling expert, surrounded by Serbian colleagues from SORS

Tourism statistics

In the same month, a mission was

carried out at SORS by an expert from the research department on tourism and business categories at the Directorate-General for Enterprise (DGE). The purpose of the mission was to assess the Serbian mechanism for measuring the provision of tourist collective accommodation (monitoring the different facilities and visitor numbers). The French system for monitoring travel by residents was also presented (Monitoring tourist demand survey), as the Serbian system has yet to be created. These two topics are the two components of the European regulation on tourism statistics.

Ukraine

Business statistics

In September, an INSEE expert went to Kiev as part of the European twinning arrangement with the SSSU, the Ukrainian NSI, for a mission on data collection in the field of business statistics. The following points were also covered: preparing questionnaires, statistical burden, and more generally the question of communicating with companies. It was mainly a question of comparing methods and points of view, as the SSSU is already fairly well advanced in this area.

National accounts

In October, two INSEE experts went to Kiev as part of the ongoing European twinning arrangement with Ukraine for a mission on national accounts.

This mission followed on from the one in March and dealt with notifying the European Commission of gross national income and the accompanying quality control procedures, the programme for transmitting the national accounts to the European Union, processing voluntary aid supplied by the population for the armed forces, the wounded or for refugees from the eastern provinces, the difference between value added in the national accounts and value added in the cost of structural business statistics factors, and finally the generic General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

Foreign trade

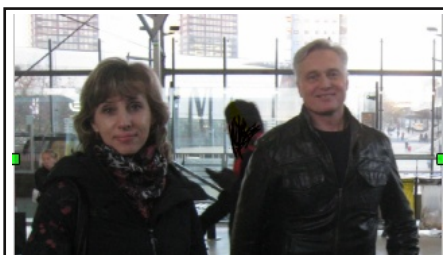
In November, again as part of the current European twinning operation, an expert from the Department of Economic Statistics and Studies (DSEE) of the Directorate-General of Customs and Excise carried out a mission at the SSSU, the Ukrainian NSI.

The aim was to present and discuss methods for estimating costs for transport and insurance of goods across borders, to cut back the CIF (cost insurance freight) value of imports, in order to establish a FOB/FOB (free on board) balance of trade.

By the end of the mission, it became clear that as these transport and insurance costs were assimilated to exchanges of services (and not exchanges of goods), they should be transferred to the balance of payments.

Computer-assisted data collection - CAPI

Again in the same month, a delegation from Ukraine visited the national computer service of the INSEE Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regional Directorate (in Lille) for a study visit on CAPI, computer-assisted data collection.



Ms Olena PUZANOVA, Director of the IT Department (SSSU) and Mr Ihor VERNER, Chief of the Main Interregional Department of Statistics

The main topics covered were as follows: presentation of BLAISE, the software tool for creating electronic survey questionnaires; the new CAPI3g project; applying these tools to different INSEE surveys; organising surveys, including those with a posteriori data checks, training survey interviewers and organising data collection; the COLTRANE project for online business surveys.

Metadata

In December, an SSSU delegation came to INSEE on a study visit to work with experts from the Quality Unit on the subject of metadata. The following points were particularly addressed: management of metadata relating to statistical variables, the Statistical Metadata Repository project (RMÉS) to line up with international standards (harmonising and sharing metadata), choosing the model to use, and the specific case of metadata on time series.



Mr Mykhailo GORNOVSKYI, interpreter; Ms Anna ROZUMNA, Deputy Director of the Department for Statistical Infrastructure (SSSU); Ms Anna ZAKHARCHENKO, Deputy Head of Division for Mathematical Methods and Support to Metainformation, Department for Statistical Infrastructure (SSSU); Mr Guillaume DUFFÈS, expert on metadata (INSEE); Ms Marie-Hélène KÉROUANTON, expert on metadata (INSEE)

Moldavia Agricultural census

In July, a delegation from NBS, the Moldavian NSI, came on a study visit to the Statistics and Forecasting Department (SSP, Castanet-Tolosan) of the Ministry of Agriculture statistical office, for a presentation of the methods used by French experts to carry out an agricultural census.

Turkey “Métric” tool

In October, there was a study visit by a delegation from Turkstat, the Turkish NSI, to the INSEE PACA Regional Directorate (Marseille) on the subject of “Métric”, a tool for calculating distances developed by INSEE. INSEE then provided Turkstat with SAS programmes and examples of datasets with which to apply them.

Mediterranean Basin

European Union Southern Neighbourhood Structural business statistics

In October, an INSEE expert co-chaired a training session on structural business statistics in Prague (Czech Republic), organised in the context of European ESTP courses and aimed at countries in the European Union Southern Neighbourhood.

Maghreb Business statistics and national accounts

In December, a delegation of Moroccan and Tunisian business statisticians and national accountants came to INSEE for study visit on business statistics and national accounts.

The presentations covered directories, profiling, the ESANE annual business statistics programme, and the use of business data by national accountants, whether they are responsible for product sectors or for the accounts of non-financial corporations. Our Maghreb colleagues also presented their own projects for overhauling their business survey systems and shared their respective experiences in this area.

Information technology

In the same month, IT colleagues from three Maghreb countries visited INSEE to study different computer-related subjects.

This visit was an opportunity for INSEE to present the Statistical Metadata Repository project (RMÉS) and HOMERE (Harmonisation of tools and census modernisation), and also work stations where these new technologies were in use (price investigators and agents responsible for updating the housing register). Security issues were also discussed and the introduction by INSEE of the ITIL (Information technology infrastructure library) framework.

Morocco

National accounts

In September, a delegation of national accountants from the Moroccan High Commission for Planning (HCP) made a study visit to INSEE.

This was an opportunity for the Moroccan colleagues to meet their counterparts in the National Accounts department and the Business Statistics Directorate to discuss the volume-price split, trade margins, arbitrations in the input-output table, producing employment matrices and measuring productivity.

World Statistics Day

In October, Mr Jean-Luc Tavernier, INSEE Director General, went to Morocco at the invitation of the High Commission for Planning to attend the conference organised by the HCP to mark World Statistics Day.



*Mr Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, INSEE
Director General*

Mr Tavernier spoke about French initiatives in measuring social progress.



*Signing the new agreement between
the Moroccan High Commission for
Planning and INSEE. On the left, Mr
Ahmed LAHLIMI ALAMI, High
Commissioner for Planning; on the
right, Mr Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, INSEE
Director General*

At a meeting with all the HCP Di-

rectorates, he later signed a new agreement between INSEE and HCP, with the aim of developing more themes and forms of cooperation.

Seasonal adjustment

In October, an INSEE expert chaired a three-day workshop on making seasonal adjustments, organised by the Moroccan Exchange Office, as part of its role as leading country in the "foreign trade post-Medstat" working group.

This workshop was financed by the European Union, and brought together participants from Morocco, and also from Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

Statistics on foreign subsidiaries

In the same month, an INSEE expert undertook a mission to the Exchange Office (Rabat).

This was the last in a series of missions on setting up a directory of Moroccan subsidiaries of international groups operating in Morocco.

This fulfilled its two objectives: first the 2010 directory of subsidiaries was finalised; second, an initial summary was made of the data in the directory.

Business statistics and balance of payments

In November, a delegation from the Moroccan Exchange Office came to INSEE on a study visit.

For the first two days, our Moroccan colleagues attended an internal training course organised by the Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate (DMCSI) on methods of processing business surveys.

After this they visited the ESANE department (Annual Business Statistics Programme) at the INSEE Pays de la Loire Regional Directorate (Nantes) and were able to see the Annual Sectoral Survey (ESA) being used in the field.

The visit was also an opportunity for the delegation to meet their

counterparts from the Banque de France, in charge of the Survey of international exchange of services, and of incorporating these results into the balance of payments.

Thematic business surveys

In December, a delegation from the Moroccan Ministry for Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital economy undertook a study visit to INSEE covering several topics, including managing surveys in the field in the trade sector (ESA and Points of sale survey), measuring industrial subsidiaries, and the dashboard for digital public services.

Algeria

Permanent database of facilities and municipality survey

In September, a colleague from the Algerian National Statistics Institute completed a study visit at the centre for the Permanent database of facilities (BPE) at the INSEE Limousin Regional Directorate (Limoges). This was also an opportunity for discussions with INSEE experts about the municipality survey currently in preparation in Algeria.

Tunisia

Software R

In October, a colleague from the Tunisian NSI, responsible for quarterly accounts, was able to attend an introductory training session on software R, organised by the Economic Studies and National Accounts Directorate (DESE) at INSEE.

Palestine

Business directory (COMPARE project)

In July, a delegation of six Palestinian managers from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) visited INSEE in the context of a support project by France to set up business registers.

The aim was to take stock of progress, ensuring coherence between the different sources of economic information on establishments and enterprises and the economic census file created by the PCBS in 2012.

This visit was followed by two missions to the PCBS in Ramallah by INSEE experts (including retired experts).

At the first, in August, detailed recommendations were made about each of the variables in the draft questionnaire for a census of establishments which the PCBS will undertake in 2017.

Particular attention was paid to links between this census and the future administrative directory.

At the second visit, in December, the delegation participated in the project steering committee with partner institutions and the PCBS.

The other objective was to take stock of progress made with work to ensure coherence between the different sources of economic information on establishments and enterprises and the economic census file created by the PCBS in 2012.

Lebanon

Macroeconomic forecasting

Two missions by INSEE experts took place in July then in October in Beirut (Lebanon) to provide support for the department responsible for macroeconomic forecasting.

This was in the context of the twinning currently underway with the Lebanese Ministry for Finance.

Sub-Saharan Africa

BCEAO

Quarterly accounts

In October, INSEE received a delegation from the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) as part of the introductory training in software R.

This training lasted two days and consisted of practical work, using specific programmes developed under R, applied to the quarterly accounts.

Applications covered examples of long series provided by the BCEAO.

Continental steering committee for the African project to put in place SNA 2008

National accounts

In November, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section attended the meeting in Addis-Ababa (Ethiopia) of the Continental steering committee for the African project to put in place the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008.



Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

The project is now in phase 2, putting actions in place that will meet the needs expressed by countries in phase 1.

During this second phase, the ERETES technical team at INSEE will lead training and support actions in these countries, coordinating with regional institutions.

Senegal

National accounts

In August, a retired INSEE expert undertook a new mission to Dakar (Senegal) to provide support for the

National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD). Senegal has decided to prepare a new base for their national accounts, so as to comply with the new international standards in force (SNA 2008).

The second goal of this mission was to overhaul the structure of the accounts, to better reflect the country's changing economy.

Ivory Coast

Social statistics

In October, the French Ministries for Labour and Social Affairs welcomed a delegation from the Ivory Coast Observatory of solidarity and social cohesion.



From left to right: Ms Sylvie LE MINEZ, at that time Head of the Employment Division (INSEE); Ms Elise Yra OUATTARA, Director General of the Observatory of social cohesion (Ministry for solidarity, the family, women and children), Ivory Coast; Ms Marcelle N'DA AHUA, technical advisor to the Director-General; Ms Emmanuelle HAMEL, advisor on international affairs and labour in the French Ministries for Labour and Social Affairs

America

Brazil

International conference of statisticians

In August, Jan-Robert Suesser, a retired expert from INSEE and formerly Director of ADETEF, attended the International conference of statisticians in Rio.



From left to right: Mr Jan Robert SUESSER (former Director of ADETEF), Mr Jean-Louis BODIN (member of the French Society of Statistics, SFdS), Mr Jean-Michel POGGI (President of SFdS) and Mr Jeff TEUGELS (Belgian colleague, member of the International Statistical

His presentation focused on measuring human rights, associated with the topics of Governance, Peace and Security, which appear in the Agenda 2030 programme on Sustainable Development Goals currently being adopted by the United Nations.

ERETES system

Ghana

In November, two experts from the International Technical Cooperation Section undertook a mission to Accra (Ghana) to set up ERETES within the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008.

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), the NSI, is keen to try out this system (which will make this the first English-speaking country to use this software), and has shown considerable interest in becoming involved in an ERETES experiment.

The switch to SNA 2008 and the setting up of a new base year 2014 by 2017, should be an excellent opportunity to introduce the assistance tool. ERETES can be used

as a centralised tool that should ensure better coordination in the work of the different national accountants, simplifying summaries and arbitrations within the accounts team.



Mr Jean-Samy AZIZ, INSEE national accounting expert (standing, 3rd from right) surrounded by colleagues from GSS, the Ghana Statistical Service: Mr Edward ASUO-AFRAM, Director of economic statistics (4th from right); Mr Francis Bright MENSAH, Head of the national accounts department (1st from right), and the team of Ghanaian national accountants

By using ERETES, Ghana will be able to improve comparability between its own accounts and those of its partners in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its neighbours (Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Togo).

In preparation for the introduction of ERETES, the mission made a number of recommendations and put forward an action plan.

Guinea-Bissau

In December, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section carried out a national accounting support mission with the Guinea-Bissau NSI.

The team of three accountants dealing with this case were very motivated and they will be able to put the tool in place very quickly.

The INE (Instituto Nacional de Estatística) intend to adopt the ERETES tool definitively with the change of base planned for 2017.

The expert therefore recommends carrying out regular missions until this date (the next will be in H2 2016) to extend and maintain the

knowledge they have gained of the workings of the tool, including the administration of the ERETES databases, processing data for a new year of accounts, working tables for the Resources – Uses Balance and the branch account.



From left to right, front row: Mr Achille PEGOUÉ, national accounting expert, AFRITAC West - IMF; Mr Suandé CAMARÁ, Director-General of INE, the Guinea-Bissau national statistical institute; Mr Jean LOUIS, national accounting expert, INSEE; 2nd row: Mr Baten BIAGUE, national accountant, INE; Mr Jaime MANGO, head of national accounting department, INE; Mr Idilio SOUSA CORDEIRO, national accountant, INE; 3rd row: Mr Luciano Fernando SANCA, business statistics, INE; Mr Roberto VIEIRA, head of the economic and financial statistics department, INE; Mr Berzelio Rofino MINCEU, national accountant, INE

Palestine

In the same month, an expert from the International Technical Cooperation Section completed a support mission in national accounting and in ERETES training at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).

The national accountants were trained in using ERETES and began working with this tool.