

International technical support

Newsletter no. 13, March 2020 - INSEE, France



Editorial

Every July, INSEE and Afristat hold an annual seminar at Cefil, INSEE's training centre in Libourne, aimed at French-speaking African statisticians. The 2019 seminar looked at "Comparative perspectives on official statistics governance in sub-Saharan Africa and the Maghreb". In this 13th edition of INSEE's International Technical Support newsletter, we explore this topic in greater depth in a special issue featuring, among others, interviews with Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, Director General of Afristat, and Mounir Khaled Berrah, Director General of Algeria's National Office of Statistics.

The other relates to data quality – a theme with which North African countries are becoming increasingly engaged through workshops, missions and study visits held by INSEE in the second half of 2019.

There is also an interview with Jean-Michel Durr, a member of INSEE's Inspectorate-General and an expert in population censuses, who talks about his attendance at the 62nd International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress in August, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he arranged and hosted a session on the use of new technology in the 2020 census round.

This edition highlights two other projects completed in 2019. The first is an example of successful cooperation in delivering technical support for Cape Verde's national accounting and Eretes systems, involving collaboration by experts from INSEE, Morocco's High Commission for Planning and the International Monetary Fund.

In the final section, we look at INSEE's cooperation activity in the second half of 2019, finishing with a review of all technical support provided to beneficiary countries in the year 2019. We hope you find this an enjoyable read.

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Attendees at the 2019 Cefil Seminar in Libourne, France, July 2019

The 2019 Cefil Seminar

Comparative perspectives on national statistics governance in sub-Saharan Africa and the Maghreb was the theme of the 2019 seminar held at Cefil in Libourne between 1-5 July 2019, jointly organised by INSEE and Afristat. The event brought together around 30 attendees, Directors General and senior managers from the NSIs of 17 countries, member states of Afristat and the Maghreb (Algeria and Tunisia).

INSEE's Director General talked about INSEE's professional independence, governance and strategy via video-conference; other speakers discussed issues relating to the organisational structure of the official statistics system and its legal framework, quality, peer reviews, the Inspectorate-General, human resources management and training.

Four panel discussions, attended by representatives of two international organisations (Paris21 and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)), the NSIs of the relevant countries and the European Training Centre for Economist-Statisticians in Devel-



Attendees at the 2019 Cefil Seminar in Libourne, France, July 2019

oping Countries (CESD), gave participants the opportunity to discuss themes such as quality, peer reviews, initial and ongoing training, statistics legislation and the contribution of technical and financial partners.

Participants enjoyed being able to engage in open discussion with colleagues from INSEE and among

themselves about how official statistics are governed, which, although common to all NSIs, calls for responses specific to each country's challenges.

► Constance TORELLI

Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Director General of Afristat, looks back at the 2019 Cefil Seminar

What made the 2019 Cefil seminar stand out was the prestige of those in attendance: 17 countries were represented at the highest level, with INSEE's Director General speaking via video-conference.

The discussion panels were a huge success, raising a number of important issues, including:

The need to review the law on statistics. Developments in the field of statistics in Africa and beyond have been incorporated at national level, as evidenced by the adoption of the African Charter on Statistics in 2009, recent revisions to the Strategy for the Harmonisa-

tion of Statistics in Africa (SHaSa), the need to accommodate big data, and the challenge of computing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators. Afristat has also provided support through its diagnostic work and proposed new legislative texts.

Statistics training and education – the basis for any credible statistical system. As capacity is limited among RESA (the African statistics school network) institutions, we should encourage the creation of national statistics schools for middle-management professionals. Afristat addresses this need through training modules for non-statisticians working in statistics departments.



Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Director General, Afristat

Confidence in data – the cornerstone of a well-performing statistical system. Quality management should be in place before and after the statistics production process. In technical and operational terms, Afristat promotes the development and implementation of

national quality assurance frameworks through awareness and introduction workshops on quality management and technical support missions.

In terms of strategy and policy, Afristat reminds the Council of Mi-

nisters for the franc zone of the need for high-quality statistics to inform decision-making.

► *Comments recorded by par
Constance TORELLI*

Mounir Khaled Berrah, Director General of Algeria's National Office of Statistics, gives his view on the 2019 Cefil Seminar

The 2019 Cefil seminar offered a chance, unlike formal meetings, to discuss important issues related to the governance of official statistics freely and at length.

The question of the value of figures and how they are perceived was discussed, which led to a discussion on the issue of confidence in, and the transparency and perception of, figures. NSIs have a major role to play in building trust among users, which demands the highest level of technical expertise, compliance with ethical and professional codes of practice, and clearer communication by NSIs away from their ivory tower.

The seminar also tackled themes related to governance, with a particular emphasis placed on the experience of France in terms of its institutional and legal framework for official statistics, in particular issues around coordination between institutions.



*Mounir Khaled Berrah, Director
General, National Office of Statistics,
Algeria*

France's official statistical system is based on three pillars: the official statistical service, the National

Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) and the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) – under the 2008 Economic Modernisation Act, which defines the appropriate operational framework and scope for the governance of statistics.

Supported by the Label Committee and aided by developments in quality management, the organisation provides credibility to statistics activity – from design, production and analysis through to dissemination – by overseeing the process in its entirety.

► *Comments recorded by
Constance TORELLI*

Peer reviews: an interview with two INSEE staff members

Peer reviews, as carried out by National statistical institutes (NSIs), have as a reference the EU Statistics Code of Practice in the case of Europe, and the African Charter on Statistics in the case of Africa. Two experts from INSEE, Dominique Bonnans, Head of the Quality Unit and Jean-Michel Durr, a member of the Inspectorate-General and an expert in population censuses, attended the Cefil seminar on this theme.

What contribution did you make to the seminar?

DB: I gave an outline of the issue of quality and INSEE's defined strate-

gy, following a peer review in 2014. Jean-Michel Durr shared his experience as a peer reviewer during the second European review cycle.

JMD: We also hosted a panel discussion on feedback that has been received with representatives of NSIs from Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Niger and Afristat.

Which specific topics did the panel discuss?

DB: Afristat's support in developing and finalising peer reviews, and then the definition of a quality assurance framework and its role in the review process.

JMD: The actions of participants in countries that were subject to a review, and of NSI Directors General of a country that had peer-reviewed another country.

What did you take away from the discussions?

JMD: The discussions were enriching as they provided an opportunity to compare practices in Europe with those in Africa. For example, the self-assessment questionnaire used in Africa for the preparation of peer reviews is more intelligible and user-friendly than that used in Europe.

DB: These reviews offer a chance



From left to right: Jean-Michel Durr, a member of the Inspectorate-General, INSEE; Issoufou Saidou, Director of Coordination, NSI Niger; Robert Goore, Adviser to the Director General, NSI Côte d'Ivoire; Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, Director General, Afristat; Oumarou Soule, Expert, Afristat; Dominique Bonnans, Head of Quality Unit, INSEE – Panel discussion sharing experiences on quality and peer reviews – Libourne, France, July 2019

to improve practices, as well as engage all stakeholders and increase NSI visibility.

DB and JMD: One chosen course of action is to convey, to Eurostat and its Member States, the potential be-

nefits of using African peer reviewers in European reviews, in the same way that European experts are involved in African reviews.

► Comments recorded by
Constance TORELLI

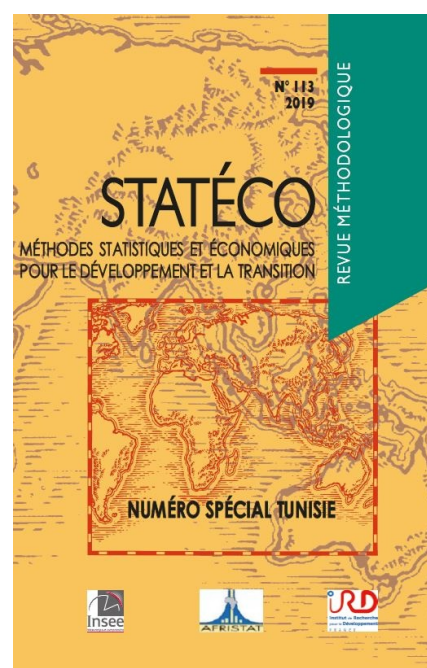
113th edition of the Statéco review just released

This latest release is a special issue to mark the 50th anniversary of Tunisia's NSI and features ten articles co-authored by Tunisian experts.

A special seven-article feature outlines the key outcomes of the European twinning project aimed at upgrading Tunisia's statistics system (2016-2018).

This project was jointly run by INSEE and ISTAT, Italy's national statistical institute (NSI), with support from Statistics Lithuania, and was administered by Expertise France.

Three articles, addressing in turn the Islamic calendar and its effect on consumer prices, migration, and exchange rates, are also featured.



Coordinated support towards a new base for Cape Verde's national accounts

In late 2017, Cape Verde began to look into compiling a new national accounts base compliant with the 2008 SNA. Initial support from Morocco's High Commission for Planning (HCP) highlighted areas for development and facilitated proposals on the advance preparatory work that would be undertaken on sources.

Cape Verde also adopted the Eretes system. The team's size and level of motivation boded well for the project.

Roll-out of the system began in September 2018 following a joint effort by two experts – one from the HCP and the other from INSEE, in keeping with the aim of “promoting joint programmes of cooperation with third countries” adopted by both institutions in a 2015 agreement.

The European Union and Afritac West 2, an IMF regional capacity development centre, lent their support for the project; the European Union part-funded work carried out by the INSEE expert within the Pan African Statistics Programme, while Afritac West 2 funded the work of an additional independent expert,



Sophie Bourrel (third from the left), Eretes system expert, INSEE, with colleagues from Cape Verde, Praia, Cape Verde, July 2019

qualified in both national accounts and Eretes.

In 2019, Cape Verde's national accountants benefited from five support missions, each accompanied by remote assistance between missions to validate the work completed.

The team in Cape Verde, who were heavily engaged in the project, completed the preparation of sources, ensuring compliance with

national accounts standards, and formatting to achieve compatibility with Eretes.

Cape Verde are aiming to finalise the compilation of the benchmark year and the first current year by the end of 2020 – an undertaking requiring huge commitment from all involved.

► *Sophie BOURREL*

Quality: active cooperation with NSIs in the Maghreb countries

Quality is an increasingly important concern among INSEE cooperation partners. A number of actions were carried out during 2019.

In particular, October saw two actions by INSEE with the Maghreb countries in relation to the quality of statistics, highlighting joint actions in cooperation and the project-led approach favoured at present.

These took the form of a workshop bringing together representatives from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia at INSEE's Directorate-General,

and a mission at Statistics Tunisia.

Hosted by the Quality unit, the workshop was an opportunity to outline INSEE's approach to quality management across the official statistical system and to explain the implementation of quality approaches based on the GSBPM¹. The presentations featured examples and high-profile activities followed by experience sharing by the countries represented.

As part of INSEE's bilateral cooperation, the mission at Statistics Tunisia was aimed at launching a

multi-year project on quality with the NSI, building on the twinning project completed in April 2018.

This first mission sought to obtain a clear view of Tunisia's position in relation to quality, and to draw up an action plan for implementation, following on from recommendations at the end of the twinning. The mission focused primarily on implementation of the Tunisian statistics charter, applying a quality-based approach to a pilot project, constructing a metadata repository and creating the conditions for the introduction of a Quality unit.

1 - Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

In addition, an intensive workshop (bootcamp), held in December in Tunis and aimed at software developers using JavaScript, also contributed to the quality project.

Modernisation in this area of web application development makes it possible to design responsive, accessible and multi-format applications, by deploying two software tools, React-js and Redux: the former to administer the graphics interface and the second to administer data within the application.

► **Olivier GOURDON** and **Dominique FRANCOZ**



Front row, from left to right: Tarik Bourezgue, Adviser to the Director General, ONS Algeria; Mohsen Hajjej, Assistant Director for Standards, Statistical Coordination and International Cooperation, NSI Tunisia; Dominique Bonnans, Head of Quality Unit, INSEE; second row, from left to right: Atef Ouni, Director of Services Statistics, NSI Tunisia; Anas Bodor and Mahjoub Aaibid, Statistics Directorate, HCP Morocco; Odile Rascol, a member of the Inspectorate-General, INSEE – Montrouge, France, October 2019

Jean-Michel Durr, a member of INSEE's Inspectorate-General, talks about his attendance at the 62nd ISI World Congress

The 62nd International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Congress took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, between 18-23 August 2019. It attracted 2,500 attendees, including five from INSEE. More than 1,300 articles and posters across a range of disciplines and statistical applications were presented and discussed by researchers, academics, public- and private-sector statisticians and decision-makers from around the world.

What did your attendance at the Congress entail?

I arranged and hosted an invited session on the use of new technology for the 2020 census round, which covers the period 2015-2024, during which the UN recommends that countries carry out at least one census.

I also participated in a session on governance in official statistics, organised by Eurostat and hosted by its Director General, in which I talked about the dual constraints of securing the necessary support

from government institutions for censuses (particularly in terms of logistics) and the risk of interference in their conduct or results.

On the latter point, I referred to examples from Myanmar, some Balkan and African states, and even the United States, with the recent controversy surrounding the introduction, supported by President Trump, of a question on nationality in the 2020 census.

How did other countries contribute to the session and what did they take away from it?

Representatives from 3 countries, South Korea, Egypt² and Mexico, presented their innovations in relation to censuses. The 2020 round has been characterised by the widespread adoption of multi-modal collection, carried out by enumerators using tablets, smartphones and laptops, as well as direct online responses by the public.

By integrating consistency checks and removing the data entry phase, not only is the quality of collection improved, but the results can also be communicated more quickly.

2 - Egypt's representative, Dr Shaker El-Naggar, Director General of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS), could not make it to Kuala Lumpur; Jean-Michel Durr made the presentation in his absence [Ed.].

As well as the electronic questionnaire, the whole collection process is affected; enumerators are monitored more closely, for example through the use of GPS coordinates for dwellings as part of the collection process and to relay collection progress indicators in real time.

This technology is accessible in all countries, irrespective of their stage of development, thanks to the technical support and solutions provided by institutions such as the US Census Bureau.

I invited representatives from the Bureau to give an overview of the tools that they are providing for developing countries, such as CSPro, a software package that can be used to collect data using a tablet, but also to edit data, or to perform tabulations.

What emerged from this session?

The editor-in-chief of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) asked me to edit a special edition on population censuses. The edition will be released in March 2020 and will be available online free of charge, thanks to fi-



From left to right: Edgar Vielma Orozco, Director General of Socio-economic Statistics, NSI Mexico, Donghun Suh, Deputy Director, Census Division, NSI South Korea, Jean-Michel Durr, a member of the Inspectorate-General, INSEE, and Oliver Fisher, International Programme Director, United States Census Bureau – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 2019

ancial support from INSEE and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It will contain 26 articles outlining the various aspects of censuses in 19 countries, as well as the actions taken by international organisations to support censuses

in developing countries. A selection of articles will be published in French in a special edition of *Statéco*.

► *Comments recorded by Serge DARRINÉ*

3 - <https://www.iaos-isi.org/index.php/journal>
4 - <https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2116798>

About Expertise France

The international Technical Support Division works closely with Expertise France, the French agency of international technical expertise.

Expertise France manages the budget allocated to INSEE as part of programme 110, "Economic and financial development aid", implemented by the Ministry for the Economy and Finance.

INSEE participates in consortia led by Expertise France with international funding in the area of statistics.

Legal notices

Publisher: INSEE – Directorate-General, 88 Avenue Verdier – CS 70058 – 92541 Montrouge Cedex (<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2116900>) // Director of Publications: Jean-Luc Tavernier, INSEE Director General // Editorial Manager: Jean-Pierre Cling, Head of the Statistical Coordination & International Relations Department // Editor-in-Chief: Serge Darriné // Contributors to this edition: Véronique Alexandre, Jean-Samy Aziz, Sophie Bourrel, Serge Darriné, Dominique Francoz, Olivier Gourdon and Constance Torelli // INSEE's international Technical Support Division includes: Dominique Francoz, Head of Division; Serge Darriné, Europe and Asia; Olivier Gourdon, the Maghreb and Mediterranean Basin; Constance Torelli, sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean; Jean-Samy Aziz and Sophie Bourrel, national accounts and Eretes experts

In brief – Cooperation activities undertaken by INSEE in H2 2019

Sub-Saharan Africa

Cameroon

In July, as part of the “Improving statistical publications on themes related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” project, an expert from INSEE conducted a training session on writing techniques in Yaoundé, primarily for the Cameroon NSI, but also for management professionals from three ministries with responsibility over environmental and agricultural issues, as well as one representative from Afristat.



Serge Darriné (sixth from the left), INSEE trainer in writing techniques, with colleagues from Cameroon, including Jean Fobasso (fourth from the left), Director of Financial Affairs, NSI Cameroon – Yaoundé, Cameroon, July 2019

The expert then reviewed a selection of Cameroon’s statistical publications for their intelligibility, with a view to improving the editorial process.

Mauritania

In October, an expert from INSEE attended the national statistics forum in Nouakchott, organised by Mauritania’s Higher Polytechnic School, the Mauritanian Centre for Policy Analysis and the NSI.

The forum aimed to raise awareness, among policy-makers and technical and financial partners, of the key role played by Mauritania’s national statistical system.

The creation of a higher statistical professions institute in Nouakchott was discussed, as were the expe-

riences of initial training – National School for Statistics and Information Analysis (ENSAI), African statistics schools in Dakar, Abidjan, Rabat and Tunis – and of ongoing training (INSEE).

Cape Verde

In July and December, an INSEE expert was engaged in two support missions in Praia, working with the Cape Verde national accounts staff, who dealt with preparing sources for the new benchmark year 2015, ensuring compliance with the system of national accounts (SNA 2008) and compatibility with the Eretes database format (see related article).

Afristat

In November, an expert from INSEE attended an Afristat seminar on national accounting.



Attendees at the national accounting seminar in Dakar, Senegal, November 2019

The seminar was attended by management from the NSIs of the eight West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) member states. The INSEE expert conducted a number of training sessions dealing with retropolation methods for national accounts.

Sodda project

INSEE co-organised a number of activities in connection with the monitoring of sustainable development goals in Africa (Sodda) project.

The working group, including participants from six African NSIs, Afristat and African statistics schools

(ESAs), met in Paris in November.

A status review highlighted the progress made by the participating countries in the past year towards developing indicators for sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The findings of a survey of Afristat member states on the implementa-



Attendees at the meeting of the working group for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (Sodda), Montrouge, France, November 2019

tion of SDGs were presented to the group.

At the end of 2019, two of three ESAs, ENSEA⁵ and ENSAE⁶, held SDG awareness sessions aimed primarily at their students, prospective managers of NSIs in sub-Saharan Africa, and representatives of civil society and the media.

ENSEA, who hosted the first session in November, chose “high-quality official statistics that successfully incorporate SDGs in Africa” as its theme.

ENSAE opted for “statistics training for SDG monitoring and evaluation” as the theme for discussion at its session in December. The students were encouraged to reflect on a topic related to the chosen theme before attending the sessions.

These were not only aimed at students. Journalists were also in attendance and reported on the sessions in the press and on African TV channels.

5 - Higher School for Statistics and Applied Economics, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

6 - National School for Statistics and Economic Analysis, in Dakar, Senegal.

The Maghreb and Mediterranean Basin

Algeria

European twinning with the Algerian Directorate-General of Forecasting: an INSEE expert took part in a mission in Algiers in November, during which a workshop was held to present the GSBPM.



Gérard Vittek (first from the right), GSBPM expert, INSEE, and Mario Osswald (fourth from the right), Information Systems expert, Data Protection Office, Saxony, Germany, with colleagues from NSI Algeria – Algiers, Algeria, November 2019

A number of Algerian government bodies were invited, including the National Office of Statistics, INSEE's partner in bilateral cooperation.

Morocco

Macroeconometric model project: in July, an INSEE expert mission took place in Rabat to monitor the progress made by the HCP's national institute for economic analysis in the construction of a quarterly macroeconometric model for impact assessments and short-term economic forecasting.

Project milestones were agreed with the Forecasting and Strategic Planning Directorate for the introduction of a similar model for medium-term forecasting.

In September, INSEE's Director General hosted Morocco's High Commissioner for Planning, offering an opportunity to reflect on the progress of the implementation of the partnership agreement between the

institutes, signed in 2015.



Jean-Luc Tavernier (left), Director General, INSEE, and Ahmed Lahlimi Alami, High Commissioner for Planning, Morocco – Montrouge, France, September 2019

During the visit, the High Commissioner also presented the HCP's flagship digital transformation project, to which INSEE would be encouraged to make contributions on themes related to processing big data and new data collection tools for surveys.

In November, an INSEE methodologist conducted a training session at the HCP on the sampling and handling of non-responses. During this mission, he also met statisticians from Morocco's Ministry for Industry to discuss potential cooperation in 2020 for business surveys.

Tunisia

Structural business statistics improvement project: in July, an INSEE expert travelled to Tunis to carry out a mission to assess the viability of using tax data to compile business statistics, and their suitability as an alternative to survey data. An action plan, as part of a Tunisian NSI's multi-year project, was developed based on three strands: expertise of sources, process improvements and redeploying resources.

Training project: in September, two managers from Tunisia's NSI attended "Induction for training staff", a training session held in Paris by INSEE's Training division.

Quality project: in October, INSEE experts travelled to Tunis to engage in a mission with four objectives: define a road map for a quality project, providing continuity with activi-

ties undertaken between 2016 and 2018 during the European twinning with Tunisia's NSI; plan for the implementation of an official statistics charter for Tunisia; assist in the implementation of a quality approach for an operation; and assist in the implementation of a Quality unit at Statistics Tunisia. Representatives of Tunisia's NSI also attended a workshop on quality, held in Paris (see article).

National accounts project: in October, a retired expert from INSEE carried out a mission for Tunisia's NSI on the change of the national accounts base and alignment with the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008.

His work entailed determining what would need to be done to finalise work already under way as part of the European twinning of 2016-2018.

The project, which will last one year, will incorporate the modernisation of financial accounts, as well as the retropolation of annual accounts.

In December, an INSEE expert carried out a mission for the NSI in Tunis on seasonal adjustment.

Maghreb

A workshop on quarterly accounts, held for the NSIs of the Maghreb countries, was co-organised by Morocco's High Commission for Planning in Rabat in July. It looked at the development of quarterly institutional accounts and offered the representatives of Maghreb countries the opportunity to share their experience of quarterly accounts.

An INSEE expert co-conducted the workshop and made some presentations on institutional sector accounts. The workshop was also attended by a representative from Senegal's NSI.

A study visit took place at INSEE in early July, primarily covering new methods for calculating the consumer price index.



From left to right: Bouchra Boulaarab, IT engineer and Head of the IT Division, and Redouan Kassimi, Head of Price Indices Service, Statistics Directorate (HCP, Morocco); Elyes Asmi, Chief Director of Economic Statistics, and Najib Haouech, Director of Prices (Statistics Tunisia); Laurent Léveillé, Gwendoline Volat and Kalyan Zimbardo, INSEE consumer price indices experts, Montrouge, France, July 2019

The use of scanner data to calculate the index, as well as methods of collection through webscraping, were discussed.

In September, the Seasonal Adjustment Centre of Excellence (SACE)⁷, in conjunction with Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), hosted a workshop in Paris on the use of time series methods for official statistics.



Amal Mansouri, expert in seasonal adjustment, High Commission for Planning, Morocco – Paris, France, September 2019

Representatives from the NSIs of Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia made a presentation on their co-authored study into the effects of Ramadan on the prices in these countries. This article was a cooperative effort, supervised by an expert from INSEE. The representatives from Morocco and Senegal each made another presentation.

In October, a workshop took place in Paris for the NSIs of Maghreb countries on the introduction of a quality unit and the organisation of a quality-based approach (see article).

Three experts from INSEE hosted an intensive workshop (bootcamp) on the React.js and Redux software tools in Tunis in December.



Attendees at the React.js and Redux bootcamp, Tunis, Tunisia, December 2019

The session brought together participants from the NSIs of Tunisia and Morocco.

The trainers praised the participants for their enthusiasm, responsiveness and motivation throughout the workshop.

Discussions took place in parallel with IT staff at Tunisia's NSI on the institute's IT systems and planned upgrades.

A workshop for the NSIs of Maghreb countries on geographical information and georeferencing systems took place in Paris in December.

Participants came from Morocco, Tunisia, Cape Verde and Afristat.



Attendees at the geographical information systems workshop with Olivier Gourdon (first from the left), new responsible for INSEE's Cooperation with Maghreb Countries – Montrouge, France, December 2019

As well as the georeferencing methods used at INSEE (e.g. gridding), sessions looked at the use of georeferencing in population censuses and for data dissemination and spatial disaggregation of SDG indicators.

Egypt

In December, an INSEE expert carried out exploratory work with the Egyptian NSI and the Egyptian Ministry for Planning. Both organisations, which have responsibility for national accounts, plan to use the Eretes system to prepare their annual accounts.



Jean-Samy Aziz (in the background), INSEE expert in Eretes, with Egyptian colleagues – Cairo, Egypt, December 2019

This mission was carried out in conjunction with the African Development Bank, which is undertaking a national accounting project in Egypt.

⁷ - Project coordinated by INSEE with EU funding.

Europe and Asia

BALKANS

Bosnia and Herzegovina

As part of the European twinning that began in 2018, INSEE delivered two technical support exercises for the Bosnian statistics system in the second half of 2019, on production price indices in the construction sector (in October) and in the services sector (in November).

EASTERN EUROPE, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

Ukraine

In November, a microdata confidentiality training session was held in Kiev for SSSU, the Ukrainian NSI, which was delivered by an expert from the French Secure Data Access Centre (CASD), as part of the EU's TAIEX programme.



Roxane Silberman (fourth from the left), expert from the Centre for Secure Data Access, with Ukrainian colleagues, Kiev, Ukraine, November 2019

The CASD is a public interest group made up of the central government represented by INSEE, the Group of National Schools of Economics and Statistics (GENES), the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), École Polytechnique and HEC Paris.

Launch of the European STEP project

In late 2018, a consortium of which INSEE is a member and which is led by Expertise France, won a tender for a project covering six NSIs across Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The European project was launched in December 2019 with a study visit to INSEE to learn about the use of new technology in data collection for household surveys. About 15 experts from INSEE were on hand for the occasion.



From left to right: Klaus Balslev Pedersen, Team Leader, STEP Project, Expertise France; Olha Pravosud, representative of NSI Ukraine; Nestani Pantsulaia, NSI Georgia; Artsiom Khinevich, NSI Belarus; Faiz Abdulrahimov, NSI Azerbaijan; Lusine Makhsudyan, NSI Armenia; Larisa Bors, NSI Moldova; François Beck (INSEE), short-term expert assigned as part of this study visit; Serge Darriné, responsible for INSEE's Cooperation with Europe and Asia; Sandra Déprez and Julie Goussen, experts at INSEE; Angela Guznac, STEP Project Lead, Expertise France – Montrouge, France, December 2019

Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)

In September 2019, an expert from INSEE participated in a high-level seminar for EECCA countries (the six countries mentioned above, plus Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) on the theme of population censuses, held in Chisinau, Moldova.

EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

China

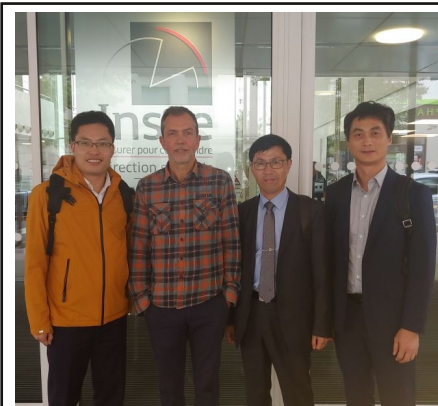
INSEE provided technical support to NBS, China's NSI, in the form of a study visit in October and a mission in November, which dealt with economic analysis and microdata processing respectively.



Attendees at a microdata seminar, Beijing, China, November 2019

South Korea

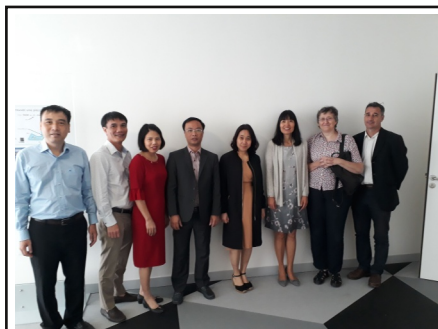
In September, a delegation from Kostat, South Korea's NSI, made a study visit to INSEE to learn more about human resource management and official statistics planning and coordination.



From left to right: Kyu-Hyun Choi, Deputy Director; Serge Darriné, INSEE; Young-Ho Ryu, Director, Innovation and Organisational Management Division, NSI South Korea; Seung-Gyu Kim, Deputy Director – Montrouge, France, September 2019

Vietnam

Vietnam's NSI benefited from two technical support activities with bilateral funding in the area of national accounts: one study visit in July and one mission in November.



Delegation from Vietnam, with Sophie Bourrel and Jean-Samy Aziz (right), Eretes experts, Montrouge, France, July 2019

International technical support provided by INSEE – Overview of actions completed in 2019

Number of cooperation actions

Type of funding	Number
Bilateral	86
Multilateral	39
Total	125

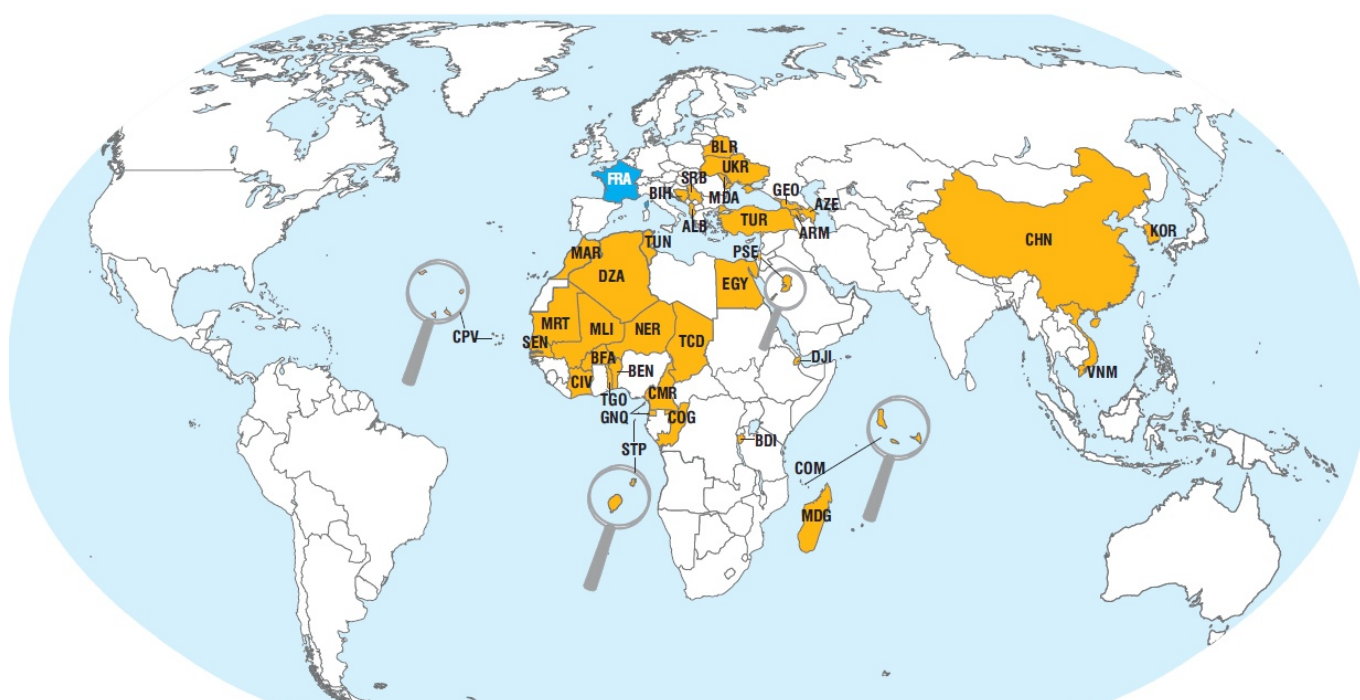
Number of days' expertise

Type of action	Number
Missions	333
Study visits	83
Remote exchange	13
Seminars, workshops	43
Total	472

Number of experts involved

Origin of experts	Mission	Study visit	Remote exchange	Seminar, workshop	Total
Active at INSEE	42	105	16	20	183
Active in ministerial statistics departments	5	2	1		8
Retired INSEE staff	4				4
Total	51	107	17	20	195

Countries in receipt of technical support from INSEE in 2019



ALB	Albania	CHN	China	EGY	Egypt	MLI	Mali	TGO	Togo
ARM	Armenia	CIV	Côte d'Ivoire	FRA	France	MRT	Mauritania	TUN	Tunisia
AZE	Azerbaijan	CMR	Cameroon	GEO	Georgia	NER	Niger	TUR	Turkey
BDI	Burundi	COG	Congo	GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	PSE	Palestine	UKR	Ukraine
BEN	Benin	COM	Comoros	KOR	South Korea	SEN	Senegal	VNM	Vietnam
BFA	Burkina Faso	CPV	Cape Verde	MAR	Morocco	SRB	Serbia		
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	DJI	Djibouti	MDA	Moldova	STP	São Tomé and Príncipe		
BLR	Belarus	DZA	Algeria	MDG	Madagascar	TCD	Chad		