

## Newsletter no. 15, January 2021

### Table of contents

Editorial

Interview with Jean-Luc Tavernier by Expertise France

Dossier: multi-platform remote cooperation

Five webinars aimed at Sub-Saharan and North African countries organised within the scope of a collaboration between INSEE, AFRISTAT, PARIS21 and UNECA

A series of actions specifically carried out with the HCP in response to the challenges posed by the health crisis

ERETES: remote technical assistance for the benchmark revision of national accounts in Cape Verde

Remote technical assistance to Vietnam for a better calculation of its GDP

Sharing of experience with Serbia with regard to the implementation of its ambitious projects

114th edition of the Statéco review just released

Assistance for the African schools of statistics

A summary of INSEE's cooperation activities in the 2nd half of 2020

Sub-Saharan Africa

The Maghreb and Mediterranean Basin

Europe and Asia

International technical support provided by INSEE – overview of actions completed in 2020

## Editorial

How can we best adapt our activities to enable them to continue under the best conditions and in the most relevant way possible given the current health crisis? This question has been put to international technical assistance, as well as to the rest of INSEE and the world of official statistics since the beginning of 2020. INSEE's international technical assistance, which, under normal circumstances, is heavily reliant on the organisation of technical assistance missions abroad and on hosting visiting foreign delegations, has been heavily impacted by the crisis. Since March 2020, international travel has been fully suspended until further notice. Our work programme has been completely overhauled in order to adapt to this new situation. We have succeeded in completing numerous remote actions in a range of different fields and with highly diverse audiences. Steps have been implemented with a view to measuring their effectiveness and, in light of the results, we may decide to continue with them, virtually or on site where possible. It is still too early to draw conclusions, but we have already been able to outline the pathways for the future implementation of statistical cooperation: a hybrid approach that combines the best of remote working – which the crisis has helped us to discover – with the undeniable benefits of face-to-face working, particularly when it comes to maintaining close links with our partners.

This issue begins with an interview of the Director General of INSEE conducted by Expertise France, the French international technical cooperation agency, to mark World Statistics Day. In this interview, Jean-Luc Tavernier discusses INSEE's active commitment to international technical assistance and stresses the importance of robust statistical infrastructures for all countries. This is followed by a dossier highlighting how technical assistance is adapting and developing in the face of the health crisis, through the continuation of previously planned activities that are adapting to the new logistical constraints, as well as the appearance of new activities that aim to help NSIs in developing countries to respond to the crisis. It is a case of helping our partners to ensure the continuity of their statistical production activities, while also measuring the economic and social consequences of the health crisis. Webinars, videoconferences, distance training and remote discussions, we have included several articles that look at some of the activities that took place in these formats during the second half of 2020. Two interviews with experts who have been involved in such activities serve to enrich this overview. The interview with Morocco's High Commission for Planning casts light on the experiences of one of our partners in the face of this crisis.

This newsletter continues with two announcements, one concerning the publication of the 114th issue of the Statéco journal, and the other concerning the financial and methodological support provided by INSEE for surveys conducted by students in African statistics schools as part of their education.

It closes with a list of INSEE's cooperation activities during the second half of 2020, together with a summary of our activities throughout the year.

We hope you find this an enjoyable read.

## Interview with Jean-Luc Tavernier by Expertise France



### **Expertise France : What does INSEE's technical assistance to its partner countries involve?**

Jean-Luc Tavernier : Good statistics are essential for the functioning of a democracy. So, it is crucial for all countries to have strong statistical infrastructure. In this respect, INSEE contributes to building the capacities of countries to produce, analyse and disseminate reliable up-to-date data.

To do so, we organise between 120 and 150 cooperation activities every year: technical assistance missions in developing or transition countries, study visits in France for colleagues from foreign statistical institutes – about thirty in 2019 –, regional exchange workshops...

For example, we jointly organise a seminar every year with Afristat for statisticians from French-speaking African countries. I was a speaker at this seminar via video conference in 2019 on the theme of the governance of national statistical systems. Finally, historically, at INSEE – and now GENES, or the Groupe des Écoles Nationales d'Économie et Statistique – we have developed substantial support for training statisticians. This is the case with the support to the African schools of statistics in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Cotonou (Benin), Dakar (Senegal) and Yaoundé (Cameroon). We contribute to training programmes, but also by hosting students, awarding scholarships...

### **In what context do these cooperation activities take place?**

These technical assistance activities can take place under bilateral cooperation projects, including European institutional twinning operations, but also increasingly under regional cooperation projects implemented in consortiums. For example, we work with Expertise France under the Pan African Statistics Programme, an ambitious programme funded by the European Union that aims to improve the production and dissemination of quality statistics in Africa and is helping set up STATAFRIC, the pan-African institute for statistics. We also work together in European Union Eastern neighbourhood countries, where we mobilise our experts under the STEP programme, after taking part in the MEDSTAT IV project, which targeted Southern neighbourhood countries.

### **Why is it interesting for INSEE statisticians to take part in this international cooperation activity?**

INSEE's international technical assistance activity contributes to France's development assistance policy and therefore fulfils an international solidarity objective. It is also a matter of the international visibility of INSEE and France.

For the experts, taking part in a technical cooperation mission is very instructive and professionally very rewarding. It improves their teaching skills, but also allows them to discover other professional practices and consider, in a mirrored way, their own practices. Despite our rather limited budgetary framework, I would stress that it develops the human capital of our staff and develops their expertise.

And, especially, it builds ties with other national statistical institutes, in Europe as well as in the rest of the world, and allows good practices to be shared. Furthermore, judging by the number of requests, this support is appreciated by our partners, particularly in certain focus areas for INSEE, such as national accounts, but also on issues concerning the governance of national statistical institutes or methodology (sampling, seasonal adjustment, data anonymisation...), which are important for ensuring the quality of the statistical data produced.

### **The COVID-19 crisis has shaken the world of cooperation. What are the prospects for statistical cooperation in this context?**

Our work programme for 2020 has been seriously disrupted by the COVID-19 crisis, but we have done our utmost to continue our activities remotely. This first involved supporting initiatives launched by national statistical institutes (NSIs) in developing and transition countries to ensure the continuity of their statistical production during the crisis and monitor the economic and social impact of this crisis. For example, INSEE is jointly organising webinars in French with Paris21 and Afristat, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, on subjects related to the adaptation of NSIs to the COVID-19 crisis.

For INSEE, it has also involved continuing to take part in European projects managed by Expertise France, in the form of remote support. For example, under the STEP programme, the training on micro data led by INSEE this summer took place online. Similarly, we participated remotely in a workshop on statistical coordination in early July 2020. Our bilateral cooperation programmes have continued by adapting the organisational arrangements.

This crisis in some way provides the opportunity to rethink our cooperation methods. We are moving towards the development of a sort of “tele-cooperation” that reaches more people, including non-French-speaking audiences

*This interview was conducted by Expertise France and published online on 20/10/2020, the original can be found at [this link](#) .*

## **Dossier: multi-platform remote cooperation**

With a view to ensuring that it can pursue its mission effectively, international technical assistance is learning to make relevant use of different means of remote working. Although these resources had previously been used to complement more traditional activities, the scale at which they have been mobilised has led INSEE to substantially alter its working methods in this area. To ensure that it would be able to cope with the diversity of the activities, while also agreeing upon the progress of the projects, several different means of cooperation have been put to use: webinars, workshops, bilateral training and discussions conducted online, together with technical assistance and expert discussions.

Indeed, while the webinars are intended to broadly highlight some general problems shared by various countries, the purpose of the online discussions and workshops is to work together with interested partners to develop a more in-depth shared vision of possibilities, objectives and work to be carried out. At the same time, training, which has also been adapted to be conducted remotely, enable the acquisition of the skills required in order to implement the changes to be imparted. Finally, technical assistance and expert discussions have continued remotely in order to provide support for solving problems that have already been clearly defined.

The following dossier illustrates these different means of action through a selection of activities undertaken during the second half of 2020. Some of these actions have been launched specifically in response to a problem generated by the COVID-19 crisis. Others are a continuation of previously planned activities.

## Five webinars aimed at Sub-Saharan and North African countries organised within the scope of a collaboration between INSEE, AFRISTAT, PARIS21 and UNECA

During the second half of 2020, INSEE, AFRISTAT and PARIS21 joined forces with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to develop a series of webinars on topical issues. While bringing in the experience of INSEE and other NSIs from developed countries, the primary aim of this initiative was to promote the sharing of experience between NSIs in sub-Saharan and Maghreb countries with regard to the adjustments made to the production and dissemination of statistics in the context of the health crisis. Conferences, organised in French, brought together a group of professionals from various fields, including statisticians, demographers, researchers and decision-makers. Each conference was attended by around 100 participants and a total of more than 300 unique internet users attended at least one of the five webinars held since the end of June. Each topic was addressed in one of two formats: two 1.5-hour webinars on consecutive days or a single 2-hour session.

They looked at the following topics:

1. Demographic and civil registration and vital statistics: what's new for NSIs?
2. The advantages and challenges of conducting household surveys via telephone in response to COVID-19
3. In what way would the quality-based approach to statistics have helped to mitigate the inconveniences brought about by COVID-19?
4. Disseminating statistics in times of crisis: the role of NSIs in countering misinformation
5. Sampling methods for surveys conducted in the context of COVID-19: opportunities and trade-offs

Together with other NSIs from OECD countries, and in particular Statistics Canada, INSEE has played an active role in each of these conferences. This has allowed INSEE to present some of its work, particularly the adaptations that have been made in order to produce death statistics in shorter time periods since the start of the pandemic, adaptations to collection instruments (price data collection, telephone surveys, etc.) and its communication strategy (website dedicated to the consequences of the COVID-19 health crisis on the [insee.fr](http://insee.fr) website, production of articles to liven up the INSEE blog, social networks, etc.).

INSEE's experts also took part in other initiatives, such as the webinars on calculating the price index in the context of the health crisis and on quarterly accounts within the scope of the PAS programme (Pan African Statistics Programme, a programme to support African integration through the production of quality statistics that are available to assist with decision-making).

The National Statistical Institutes of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Maghreb countries also found themselves on the front line in the face of this unprecedented crisis and in the increased demand for appropriate data to provide information to decision-makers to assist them in the management of the crisis. The sharing of experience during the webinars made it possible to highlight some of the work that has been carried out and to assist one another in overcoming these new challenges. It also made the participants more aware of the fact that this crisis offers opportunities to make organisational changes and to introduce innovative statistical production methods.

## **A series of actions specifically carried out with the HCP in response to the challenges posed by the health crisis**

In April and May 2020, during the first lockdown, several actions were carried out with Morocco's High Commission for Planning (HCP) with a view to helping them to continue producing statistics against the backdrop of the health crisis, as well as to report on its economic and social consequences. Several workshops focused on the establishment by the HCP of a household telephone survey on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19: organisational arrangements, sampling and survey methodology. Two other videoconferences concerned the establishment of the consumer price index during the pandemic and sampling within HCP's Employment survey. This virtual cooperation has been a success, in spite of the technical nature of the topics discussed. In particular, they allowed for the participation of many HCP staff, which would have been more difficult in person.

The following two testimonials provide an overview of the perspectives of the various parties involved in this work.

**[Box 1] Feedback on the videoconference discussions with Morocco's High Commission for Planning (HCP): support provided for sampling in connection with surveys set up by telephone**

*Interview with Sébastien Faivre, former head of the Surveys Division of the Department of Statistical Methods, INSEE*

**What is your overall impression of the activities that you have carried out remotely with Morocco's High Commission for Planning (HCP)?**

In April and May 2020, during the lockdown imposed on Morocco as a result of the health crisis, the High Commission for Planning had to set up telephone surveys for the first time. I provided support to the HCP's team with regard to sampling for both a new household survey concerning the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and for their Employment survey. These two videoconferences lasted between 1.5 and 2 hours each and gave rise to a number of discussions, especially with the HCP's Sampling Division.

From my point of view and in the case of these activities, although the pace of these virtual meetings may have seemed slower than it would have been in person, the objectives were generally achieved: we managed to work together with our Moroccan colleagues to establish a methodology and tools for their surveys, at least in a broad sense. The interactivity during the videoconferences was good and the discussions were pleasant on a human level, with plenty of openness, which helped us to overcome the internet connection problems that arose from time to time. Thanks to our shared statistical culture and expertise, the virtual aspect of the meetings did not prevent mutual understanding and joint progress with regard to the technical elements that were discussed during the videoconferences. In order to facilitate discussions and to clearly define the challenges encountered by each participant, it was important to have precise information in advance of the meetings with regard to the exact roles of the sometimes numerous participants, both from an institutional point of view and in connection with the topics discussed.

**In your opinion, what are the conditions for the success of these remote cooperation activities?**

The statistical culture that we share with the HCP enables effective discussions in the context of technical support without any ambiguity or misunderstanding of the concepts involved. Furthermore, we hold our discussions in French, which allows us to be precise and to limit the differences in the content of statistical concepts that may arise between one language and another. Were we to be holding discussions with an institution from a more distant statistical culture and in a foreign language, this could have been more difficult.

I would also have more reservations concerning a technical training conducted by videoconference, without prejudging what a real training professional could achieve. The lack of a common base could be a hindrance, due in particular to the differences in skills among the participants. The issues raised in the case of a training course are more difficult to put your finger on and it is often necessary to perform an upgrade: the interactivity that we benefit from on site will be somewhat lacking and the virtual setting may require an even greater effort on the part of the participants.

**In your opinion, could virtual discussions be effectively combined with traditional means of cooperation in the future?**

There is no doubt that carrying out the initial activities in person is important to the success of a project. It is then possible to continue them remotely, which could then present an effective combination. However, it would be more difficult to meet objectives based on virtual discussions alone. It is important to meet in person to properly understand one another; cooperative actions require a sound understanding of the technical aspects of a subject, but organisational and human insight is also essential.



## **[Box 2] How has Morocco's High Commission for Planning (HCP) adapted its international cooperation activities to the health crisis?**

*Interview with Hasnae Fdhil, head of the Communication and Cooperation Division at the HCP*



### **What changes have been made to your programme of international cooperation activities as a result of the health crisis?**

The impact of the crisis on us is threefold. We had to establish a remote working system, to adapt our methods and tools to enable us to continue with our regular data collection activities and, on top of that, it became necessary to respond in a timely manner to specific needs for data and studies in order to provide information for public policies with regard to the various impacts of COVID-19.

In this regard, consultations and discussions with our partners were very valuable to us, particularly given that the NSIs in our partner countries were facing the same challenges as us.

The performance of projects and cooperation programmes was also impacted by the unforeseen circumstances of the crisis. While some activities were postponed, many others were carried out by means of videoconferencing, such as the actions agreed within the scope of our project with "Statistics Denmark", the completion rate of which was in excess of 50%. In addition, HCP staff participated in around fifty online meetings, workshops and training sessions organised by international and regional institutions.

It is important to note that the pandemic has created new opportunities for cooperation. Several consultations and technical discussions concerning the management of statistical production in times of crisis have been conducted via videoconference with our partners, for example INSEE or [ISTAT](#), the Italian National Institute of Statistics, or with [Statistics Denmark](#). New projects and initiatives have also been developed in order to support the rapid response to new data and study needs in the context of COVID-19. A new cooperation programme was therefore agreed and put in place with UNICEF, and a collaboration with the United Nations System in Morocco resulted in the drafting of a ["Policy brief"](#) on the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis in Morocco.

In addition, the HCP organised a webinar to mark World Statistics Day, which saw contributions from our international, regional and national partners and for which we selected a topic focussing on best practices developed during times of crisis and in particular the challenges faced by national statistical systems as a result of COVID-19. Similarly, a two-week online training course was organised in partnership with METAC – the IMF Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center – on the inclusion of services in the consumer price index. This period was also characterised by other activities, of no less importance, particularly the HCP's contribution to webinars and online workshops organised by our partners, such as those run by PARIS21, AFRISTAT and INSEE dedicated to the way in which the NSIs have adapted to the COVID-19 crisis and the series of webinars organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

### **How have you adapted from a technical point of view?**

We needed to prepare in order to continue our activities at an optimal level under these conditions, whether that be in terms of computer equipment or secure network access. Huge efforts were made, particularly by managers, who had to work remotely. A standardised telephony solution was put in place to enable telephone data collection. All meetings, whether they be strategic or technical, were conducted remotely in order to comply with COVID-19 protective measures.

The degree of interaction when working remotely is not as good as it would be in person, but we have adapted to it over time. We now have optimal equipment for remote working and work carried out on site has been organised in such a way as to avoid contamination while also allowing activities to continue.

### **Do you think that these new methods of communication will have a lasting impact on your methods of international cooperation?**

These new procedures present an alternative for use in times of crisis. There is, of course, less scope for interaction than when meeting in person, but those participating in videoconferences each adapt at their own pace. This new culture is establishing itself little by little and there has been considerable progress since the start. I think that this method will continue as a means of reinforcing the more traditional methods. This offers significant benefits in terms of cost and the number of people who can participate.

We are missing on-site activities for highly technical training and workshops for which practical exercises and case studies are required and during which the ability of the participant to interact is key to the success of the training.

It therefore offers an alternative, but not a substitute for on-site activities and it will not disappear after the crisis: we will need to try to effectively combine it with traditional means of cooperation in order to continue reaping the benefits of virtual communication, while also benefiting from human contact and contextualisation of actions.

## **ERETES: remote technical assistance for the benchmark revision of national accounts in Cape Verde**

ERETES can be seen as the cutting edge of INSEE's statistical cooperation. This tool, which is co-managed by INSEE and Eurostat, is today used by around thirty countries around the world to draw up their annual national accounts. Cape Verde is one of its latest users. Since 2018, INSEE has been working in collaboration with AFRITAC (IMF) to assist them in the benchmark revision of their national accounts in compliance with the 2008 SNA. In 2020, this assistance had to be provided purely remotely.

Under normal circumstances, these assistance missions take the form of a one-week in-person visit. This format presents the advantage of being able to alternate between various complementary activities. Plenary meetings take stock of the general progress of works and ensure that everyone is duly involved. Workshops to build upon the training are dedicated to the practical implementation of specific functions offered by the tool. Finally, working sessions conducted with each accountant allow them to focus specifically on their own tasks. The switch to doing this fully remotely proved challenging, but also presented opportunities.

On the one hand, the entirety of the source preparation phase before the preparation of the accounts involves the manipulation of numerous working files, databases and repositories, which does not make it conducive to remote work. For example, the lack of direct access to working files has proven to be a particular disadvantage when dealing with certain issues. In addition, responding in parallel to requests that overlapped in all subject areas brought about higher "entry costs" for both parties than would have been incurred during a mission in which each subject is dealt with in depth in a sequential manner.

On the other hand, communicating by email has led to questions and answers being formulated more precisely than in verbal communications, as it is possible to take time to think and to search for detailed documentation. The fact that experts were able to spread their interventions out over time and reconcile them with other tasks made it possible to increase support overall. This form of communication also presented the advantage of better documenting the methodological discussions and the decisions taken.

## Remote technical assistance to Vietnam for a better calculation of its GDP

Between September and November, Anna Smyk, a seasonal adjustment expert at INSEE, worked alongside the Vietnamese NSI with a view to helping it to improve the working-day adjustment of its quarterly GDP. More specifically, the request concerned the inclusion of non-fixed holidays (lunar calendar) when making a working-day adjustment in JDemetra+.



This assistance was provided solely by means of the direct exchange of emails and attachments between the experts. Its success can be attributed among other things to the extensive online documentation offered by JDemetra+. For the expert, “having substantive documentation to guide the person submitting the request to place their issue in a broader context and learn steps that they are able to repeat” is the key to the success of this type of action. In order to supplement the existing system, in the near future, the expert is going to record additional video clips to provide users with a step-by-step guide for some of the more complex procedures.

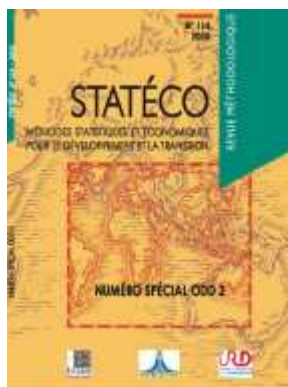
According to Anna Smyk, “this way of working is effective when the issue revolves around a specific point and the concepts and tools are otherwise well known, as was the case here”. However, “it is not suitable in cases where prior knowledge is poor or where the issue is too broad, for example the complete overhaul of a seasonal adjustment process”. In that case, a more complete project would need to be set up.

## Sharing of experience with Serbia with regard to the implementation of its ambitious projects

In November, a meeting took place between INSEE’s metadata experts and Serbia’s NSI (SORS). The French experts gave a presentation on INSEE’s Statistical Metadata Repository (RMÉS) and the Serbian experts presented their approach to managing metadata in return. SORS is currently in the process of developing a general metadata system that is connected to its existing systems – an ambitious project. This sharing of experience provided an insight into each other’s approaches and explored the relevance of further collaboration to assist SORS with its future developments.

In December, a meeting was arranged between Serbia’s NSI and the Directorate of Research, Economic Studies and Statistics (DARES). The aim was to present the method used by France to produce these statistics, thanks to the Labour Force Activity and Employment Conditions (ACEMO) survey, and to hold discussions concerning the Serbian project, which aims to establish a methodology for the production of statistics regarding vacant jobs through the use of administrative data. It is essential that the interactive nature of these activities is preserved, because their added-value is largely based on discussions between the participants. The persons running these events are getting fully aware of how essential is the role of facilitator they have to play in order to preserve the richness of interactions that appear less spontaneous than during face-to-face meetings.

## 114th edition of the Statéco review just released



This special edition is dedicated to Sustainable Development Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”, with a focus on the African continent. Due to the observed lack of data on SDG2, four of the six articles in this edition present data and indicators linked to this topic, strategies aimed at improving the current situation and future prospects in this area. The final two articles compare SDG2 with the other SDGs and highlight the challenges posed by the initial training of future African statisticians.

This edition forms part of the African Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring (SODDA) programme, funded by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and managed by Expertise France with the scientific and technical support of INSEE.

It is available on INSEE's website at the following [address](#).

### Assistance for the African schools of statistics

INSEE has entered into a commitment with African schools of statistics (ESA). Support for statistical training is traditionally one of the two pillars of French statistical cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa (the second being the partnership with AFRISTAT). INSEE's executive training schools therefore maintain a close partnership with the ESAs within the framework of the Conference of African Statistics School Directors (CODESA). INSEE also maintains direct cooperation relationships with the ESAs. In this context, INSEE wanted to strengthen its cooperative relationships with these schools and to provide them with scientific, technical and financial support. Each year, the ESAs organise a pedagogical survey that gives students the opportunity to put what they have learnt into practice by conducting a statistical study, from the design of the questionnaire and the choice of population surveyed to the collection of information, which is also carried out by the students, and the exploitation of the results.

This year, the topics chosen were directly linked to the COVID-19 crisis. The survey conducted by ENSAE (Dakar) therefore concerns “COVID-19: impacts and coping strategies of the academic system in the Dakar region”. The work in progress was presented by ENSAE during its participation in the fifth webinar organised within the scope of the partnership between INSEE, AFRISTAT, PARIS21 and UNECA. The survey conducted by ENSEA (Abidjan) is entitled “preventive behaviour, perception of the effectiveness of control measures and changes brought about by the COVID-19 crisis: an analysis of the situation of RESA students and companies belonging to the Côte d'Ivoire SME Agency”. Finally, the survey set up by ISSEA (Yaoundé) looks at: “Employment and empowerment of urban women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: situation of women in the city of Yaoundé”.

Discussions are organised between INSEE's experts and the members of the pedagogical teams of the three schools throughout the survey process in order to validate the methodological choices and to discuss any questions that arise as the survey is carried out. The support will continue until the results are published.

## A summary of INSEE's cooperation activities in the 2nd half of 2020

### Sub-Saharan Africa

- **INSEE – AFRISTAT – PARIS21 – UNECA**

- **Series of themed lectures**

- Five webinars linked to the contexts of the COVID-19 health crisis

- Webinars

- June - December

- **AFRISTAT**

- **Sustainable Development Goals – SODDA Project**

- Update from the working group regarding the SDGs within the scope of the support programme for monitoring the SDGs (SODDA)

- Videoconference

- July

- **Presentation of the methodological work carried out on the SDGs by young graduates from African statistics schools on behalf of AFRISTAT**

- Videoconferences

- November

- **CENTRAL BANK OF WEST AFRICAN STATES**

- **Quarterly accounts**

- Estimated quarterly GDP in chained volume measures at N-1 prices

- Videoconferences

- December

- **CAPE VERDE**

- **National accounts**

- Benchmark revision, that is compatible with the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA)

- Videoconferences and remote discussions

- From July to December

- **AFRICAN STATISTICS SCHOOLS**

- **Thematic surveys**

- Support for surveys conducted by the students of each of the three schools (ENSEA in Abidjan, ENSAE in Dakar and ISSEA in Yaoundé) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Monthly videoconferences

- July to December

- **AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC) – PAN AFRICAN STATISTICS PROGRAMME**

- **Quarterly accounts**

- Participation in the webinar concerning the challenges faced by the NSIs in drawing up their quarterly national accounts and possible solutions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Webinar

- July

- **AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)**

- **National accounts**

- Participation in the two seminars organised on the subject of national accounts – CPI (the first for French-speaking countries and the second for English-speaking countries)

- Webinars

- October and December

- **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (UNECA) – AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) – PARIS21**

- **Forum of Statistical Development in Africa**

- Participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum of Statistical Development in Africa (FASDev IX)

- Webinar

- December

## The Maghreb and Mediterranean Basin

- **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- **Macroeconomic forecasting models**

- NSIs of Morocco and Tunisia, Bank of Lebanon

- Mésange and Avionic forecasting models (INSEE), ThoR (Treasury Department, French Ministry for the Economy and Finance), ThreeME (French Economic Observatory, OFCE) and FRBDF (Banque de France)

- Discussions on the construction of a model

- Videoconferences

- November

- **MAGHREB**

- **Employment statistics**

- NSIs of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria

- The method for establishing employment areas, the Continuous Employment Survey, the statistical system for earnings, discriminations in employment

- Videoconferences

- December

- **ALGERIA**

- **Establishment of a database of agricultural statistics**

- Modernisation and development of the database submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture

- Videoconference and remote discussions

October – December

**Digitalisation of the archive**

Backup and digitalisation of the archive and establishment of a dedicated unit

Videoconference

November

**Twining with the Algerian Forecasting Division (Ministry of Finance)**

Role, aspects and strategy of public and institutional communication

Videoconferences

November – December

• **MOROCCO**

**“Macroeconometric model” project**

Progress made in the development of a quarterly model for performing impact studies and economic forecasting

Videoconference and remote discussions

July – December

**Processing of business statistics**

Organisation of the response to a call for tender issued by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Remote discussions

September

**Webinar by the High Commission for Planning to mark World Statistics Day**

Event on the subject of: *official statistics in the context of COVID-19: challenges, restrictions and solutions*

Webinar

November

• **TUNISIA**

**“Working towards the establishment of a quality unit” project**

Monitoring of the multiannual project: charter indicators and pilot operation

Videoconference

July

**OECD webinar - Improving regional statistics to support inclusive and sustainable regional development in Tunisia**

Event on the subject of the development and strengthening of regional statistics

Videoconference

July

**“Nouvelle base” project**

National accounts benchmark revision and alignment with the 2008 SNA

Update on the progress of the project; establishment of inventory accounts for the sectors

Videoconferences

September – December



## Europe and Asia

- **UZBEKISTAN**

- **Population census**

- Presentation of the French population census method

- Videoconference

- November

- **SERBIA**

- **Metadata management**

- Presentation of the RMÉS; sharing of experience with regard to the management of metadata

- Videoconference

- November

- **Statistics on vacant jobs**

- Presentation of the ACEMO survey, indicators of stress in the labour market and discussions regarding the Serbian Job Vacancy Statistics (JVS) production project

- Videoconference

- December

- **Statistics through Eastern Partnership (STEP)**

- **Access to microdata for researchers**

- Training provided by the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD) concerning the implementation of the various processes required in order to grant access to microdata for research purposes

- Online training

- July

- **Coordination of the Official Statistical Service**

- Participation in a conference on the coordination of the SSP: presentation of the French system

- Webinar

- July

- **National accounts: public finance statistics**

- Training provided by the Banque de France on the development of official finance statistics in accordance with GFSM 2014

- Online training

- September

- **Quality - quality assurance approach**

- Training on quality methods, tools and best practices

- Online training

- September

- **National accounts: production of IOTs and SUTs**

- Training on the production of Input-Output Tables (IOTs) and Supply-Use Tables (SUTs)

- Online training

- November

- **VIETNAM**

- **National accounts: seasonal adjustment**

- Remote assistance for the improved adjustment of working days in quarterly GDP using the JDmetra+

software  
Remote discussions  
Septembre – Novembre

## International technical support provided by INSEE – overview of actions completed in 2020

**Table 1 – Number of cooperation actions**

Type of funding	Number
Bilateral	61
Multilateral	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>

**Table 2 – Corresponding number of days' expertiset**

Type of action	Number
Missions, including via video (117.5)	147.5
Visits, including via video (5.75)	12
Remote discussions	12
Workshops, webinars and training	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>226.5</b>

**Table 3 – Number of experts involved**

Origin of experts	Missions (including remote)	Visits (including remote)	Workshops, webinars and training	Remote discussions
Active at INSEE	20	27	24	9
Active outside of INSEE	7	1	6	2
Retired INSEE staff	2	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>