

International technical support

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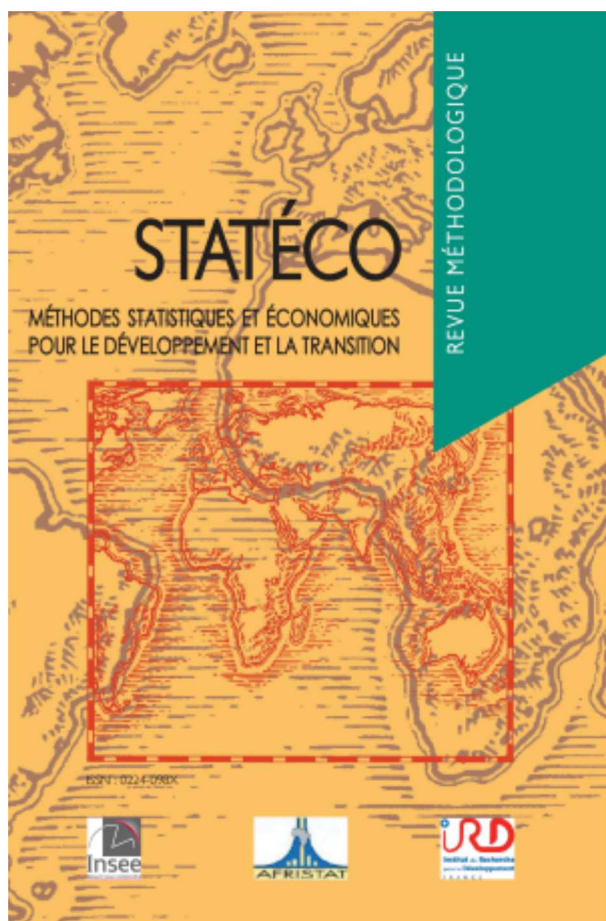
Éditorial

Statéco celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022; half a century of capitalising on knowledge of statistical methodologies for developing countries. The 2023 edition presents an opportunity to take stock of the evolution of the journal since its inception, of the state of statistics and statistical training in Africa and of technical assistance in a number of areas. This newsletter therefore opens with an introduction to this new retrospective issue.

Next, we look at the programming of activities with the three Maghreb countries, as well as the continuation of the *New Base* project with Tunisia's NSI, which aims to consolidate and expand the country's national accounts. Since early 2023, Mauritania's NSI has been the subject of another key support project covering a number of strategic areas.

This issue continues with a presentation of the discussions currently under way with a number of countries that have expressed an interest in the ERETES national accounts software. We then go on to present the activities of the Department of Statistical and International Coordination at the 17th Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS), together with a detailed list of activities performed during the first half of 2023.

We could not end this editorial without mentioning Jean-Pierre Cling, head of INSEE's Department of Statistical and International Coordination since 2017. Until now, the International Technical Support Division has been benefiting from his extensive experience in international technical cooperation and his involvement in development research that has been a feature throughout his professional life. We would like to thank him and wish him an excellent retirement, and would also like to welcome his successor, Olivier Biau, former Director of the *École nationale de la statistique et de l'analyse de l'information* (National School for Statistics and Information Analysis).



The **Statéco** journal, co-edited by INSEE in collaboration with the Institut de recherche pour le développement (**French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development – IRD** [↗](#)) and **AFRISTAT** [↗](#) (the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa), was established in 1972. This edition takes stock of the journal's contribution to overall economic and statistical methodology, largely in Africa, as well as advances made by African statistics in a number of key areas, training, and a few examples of contributions made by French and international technical cooperation.

The first article in this special issue analyses the ways in which the topics and the participation of the journal's authors have changed over the past half century. It demonstrates the richness and diversity of the topics covered, as well as the gradual increase in the presence of authors from developing countries, more specifically from African countries, which has become very noticeable since the 2000s. The next two articles focus on national accounts in sub-Saharan Africa and Tunisia, respectively, and demonstrate the importance of cooperation in this strategic area when it comes to measuring the national economies of developing countries. The article on the state of reform of the national statistical systems in the French-speaking countries of sub-Saharan Africa demonstrates the progress made and the road ahead. The next article provides a lucid analysis of the results of the European Union's statistical support projects in Burkina Faso, highlighting their successes, while also identifying what caused the failures that occurred. Finally, the last article traces the history of the links between African and French statistical schools, which are gradually transforming into a true partnership.

Programming of 2023 activities in Maghreb countries

Carried out in late 2022 and early 2023, the programming missions in the national statistical institutes of the three Maghreb countries made it possible to take stock of past and future activities.

In Algeria, the discussions have resulted in an inventory and the identification of capacity building levers, particularly in the areas of national accounts, communication and regional and social statistics.

In Tunisia, the consultations resulted in the identification of key areas for collaboration: continuation of the New Base 2 national accounts project (see below), business outlook surveys, quality of business statistics and communication.

Finally, in Morocco, INSEE has been involved in the provision of significant support to the High Commission for Planning (HCP) as part of the EU's Hakama II (2021–2024) project: regional statistics, business statistics and mixed-mode collection of household surveys. 2023 must therefore mark significant progress in the reform of the HCP's governance and regional publications, as well as in the implementation of post-collection checks for structural business surveys. This is also the year in which the results of two surveys conducted with support from INSEE will be used: the survey conducted by the Eastern Region Directorate among the unemployed, a pilot survey aimed at boosting local capacities for conducting surveys, and the new section of the national employment survey, conducted by telephone to test this collection method.

2023 also sees the launch of a national accounts project in Morocco looking at balance sheets, digital economy, agriculture and regional accounts.

Support for the consolidation and enlargement of national accounts in Tunisia

From the European twinning (2016–2018) to the completion of the benchmark year change activities within the scope of bilateral cooperation (**New benchmark year** project, 2019–2021), working together with Banque de France, INSEE was heavily involved in national accounts at the Tunisian NSI. The most recent publication by the NSI in this regard is testament to its success: the **National Accounts 2017–2021** [📄](#) were presented according to the benchmark year 2015 (March 2023).

In 2023 and 2024, the second part of this bilateral project will focus on the consolidation of the new benchmark year and on the enlargement of the accounts to complete balance sheets, as well as the development of a satellite accounts system. A mission undertaken in March provided an in-depth assessment of the implementation of previous decisions: current campaign of accounts (benchmark year 2015), use of the 2022 micro-entreprises survey, evaluation of employment, integration of balance sheets, situation with regard to satellite accounts, revision of the SNA and prospects for the next benchmark year change. Support will also be provided for the establishment of quarterly accounts and backcasting.

A bilateral cooperation project in support of ANSADE in Mauritania





In 2022, INSEE and the *Agence nationale de la statistique et de l'analyse démographique et économique de Mauritanie* (Mauritania's National Agency for Statistics and Demographic and Economic Analysis – **ANSADE** [↗](#)) entered into a bilateral cooperation agreement to implement a technical assistance project funded by the *Agence française de développement* (**AFD** [↗](#)). The work commenced in September 2022. This partnership follows the significant reform of the Mauritanian statistical system, which took place in early 2021, and responds to the need for *ad hoc* technical assistance in strategic areas such as for legal and institutional issues and governance, as well as for dissemination and the quality of production processes, among other things.


Following an initial mission and the drafting of an action plan in late 2022, the first half of 2023 saw the commencement of the implementation of the project. The work, coordinated by a senior advisor in collaboration with INSEE's International Technical Support Division, is characterised by its specific nature, which is aligned to ANSADE's needs. Multiple activities are therefore being carried out simultaneously: in addition to remote discussions and document revisions, working sessions are also being carried out as videoconferences or face-to-face. The second mission, which took place in February, focused on a number of topics, including governance and human resources, quality processes and their monitoring, regional actions, dissemination and communication, and the monitoring of the transformation of the legal framework for official statistics.

The members of the project steering committee expressed their satisfaction with regard to the work carried out and the schedule of future actions during its first meeting.

Involvement of the Department of Statistical and International Coordination in the International Association for Official Statistics Conference

INSEE's Department of Statistical and International Coordination took part in the 17th conference of the International Association for Official Statistics ([IAOS](#) ) , which took place from 4–6 April 2023 in Livingstone, Zambia.

Dominique Francoz organised and presided over a session on innovations in the use of administrative data and new data sources for monitoring the 2030 UN and 2063 African Union agendas. This session highlighted some of the activities undertaken within the scope of the PAS2 (Pan African Statistics 2) programme, funded by the European Union, to which INSEE contributes. In particular, the project aimed at organising a hackathon (in late 2023) for statisticians from African NSIs as part of an activity on the use of alternative data sources was discussed. She also participated in a roundtable organised by the UK's ONS ([Office for National Statistics](#) ) with the title: "Why should we promote access by women to high-level jobs within national statistical institutes in Africa, and how can we do so?".

Cristina D'Alessandro presented the *Conseil national de l'information statistique* (French National Council for Statistical Information – [CNIS](#) ) , its role in the consultations between the producers and users of official statistics in France, how it operates and its recent developments, particularly in the area of sustainable development. Her presentation prompted questions about the way in which this consultation framework can be adapted to African contexts and the challenges that CNIS faces.

Finally, Clément Delecourt presented the results of research carried out together with Jean-Pierre Cling into the interconnections between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at global level. Based on monitoring data provided by the UN, these studies identify the existing synergies between the SDGs and characterise the two main underlying dimensions of global development identified: human development, on the one hand, and environmental protection coupled with the reduction of inequality (and in particular gender inequality) on the other hand. Their studies also highlight the homogeneity of African countries, when compared to the rest of the world, with regard to SDG monitoring data.



Cristina D'Alessandro and Clément Delcourt (Insee) ; the participants in the session organised by Dominique Francoz (Insee, fourth from the left)

New countries showing an interest in the ERETES software

In December 2022, as part of the EU PAS2 programme, a hands-on workshop to introduce ERETES was held in Abuja, Nigeria, for statisticians from Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Collaboratively led by INSEE and AFRISTAT experts, this workshop aimed to present the software to the national accountants of these three English-speaking countries, to allow them to try it out for themselves during a practical day and also to take stock of the accounts compiled in each of the three countries: scope, method used, benchmark year, available sources and large-scale statistical operations planned in the short term. At the end of this workshop, all three countries expressed an interest in ERETES. The implementation of the software will begin in June 2023 in Liberia and may begin in the second half of 2023 in Sierra Leone.

Contact has also been made with the national statistical institute of Madagascar, where an initial audit of sources will take place before the end of this year. Finally, support has been requested from INSEE by the Bolivian NSI, for which studies are currently being carried out.

In parallel with these new prospects, work to implement ERETES out at the Tunisian NSI is still under way: the next mission will take place in July and will aim to complete the loading of the 10 years that have already been closed, into the software database. This mission will also present an opportunity to start working with a new international technical expert recruited from French Polynesia through French cooperation and assigned to the African Union Institute for Statistics ([STATAFRIC](#)) for two years.

A summary of INSEE's cooperation activities in the first half of 2023

Regional Activities

- **Pan-African Statistics Programme (PAS2)**

EU-funded project benefiting African countries

Fifth coordination meeting of NSIs involved in the two Eurostat grants (INSEE, Instituto Nacional de Estadística - España, Statistics Denmark, Statistics Finland, Statistics Norway, Statistics Poland)

Mission in Oslo (Norway)

March



NSI representatives implementing EU grants for PAS2

- **Paris21 – INSEE – AFRISTAT – UNECA series of themed conferences**

Statistical dissemination and literacy through the use of new media

French-speaking countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Maghreb region

Webinar

February

- **International Association for Official Statistics**

Participation in the 17th conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)

Mission in Livingstone (Zambia)

April

Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)**

Company profiling

Videoconferences

April

Estimate of quarterly accounts

Videoconferences

June

- **MAURITANIA**

Bilateral agreement with the Agence nationale de la statistique et de l'analyse démographique et économique (**National Agency for Statistics and Demographic and Economic Analysis – ANSADE** [↗](#)), a project funded by the Agence française de développement (French Development Agency)

Human resources, governance, quality, regional action

Mission in Nouakchott

February

Human resources, quality process on the economic situation

Videoconferences

April, May

- **AFRISTAT, GABON, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Quality of statistical processes

Videoconferences

January, April

- **AFRISTAT – EXPERTISE FRANCE – INSEE – FERDI – DGFIP – DGDDI**

Steering Committee for the DATAFID project

Videoconferences

March, June



- **AFRISTAT**

Planning and creation of policy briefs


Training of trainers in Abidjan (Ivory Coast)

May



- **AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION**

- Exploration of avenues for cooperation between ACBF and INSEE**

- Mission in Harare (Zimbabwe) at the headquarters of the African Capacity Building Foundation ([ACBF](#) )
April



- **CAMEROON**

- Service price indices**

- Videoconference

- June


- **LIBERIA**

- Training in national accounts and the ERETES software**

- Mission in Monrovia

- June



*From left to right: Threacher Bedell and Rudi Vinton
(Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services-LISGIS),
Alice Tchang (Insee), Erith Nghogue ([National Institute of Statistics](#) , Cameroon),
Clarence Lamie, Edith Arkuwaille, Monica Baryor et François David (LISGIS)*

- **DJIBOUTI**

- Training in editorial techniques and auditing of statistical and economic publications**

The Maghreb and Mediterranean Basin

- **ALGERIA, TUNISIA**

2023 programming missions

Office of National Statistics (Algeria), National Statistical Institute (Tunisia)

Missions

January, February

- **MOROCCO**

Hakama II project on European funding, 2020–2024

Boosting the capacities of the High Commission for Planning



Strengthening of the technical capabilities of outside services – creation of an organisational model for regional offices

Responses to the need to highlight local public policy issues: decision made to conduct a pilot study looking at local partnerships at the Regional Office of Tangier

Videoconferences with the Pays de la Loire Regional Office

March, June

Overhaul of the System for Producing Business Statistics

Establishment of post-collection checks for structural business surveys

Videoconferences

April, May

National accounts

Balance sheets, digital economy, agriculture and regional accounts

Videoconferences, mission

April, May, June

- **TUNISIA**

Internal communication

Relaunch of the project to overhaul the NSI's Intranet

Videoconference

January

New Base 2 project: expansion of the [new base](#) to Tunisian national accounts

Review of accounts in current years and link to base years

Evaluation of jobs

Integration of balance sheets

Expansion to include satellite accounts


Videoconferences and mission in Tunis

January, March, May

South America

- **BOLIVIA**

Project to modernise the Bolivian national accounts

Provision of support to the Instituto Nacional de Estadística in Bolivia financed by the Agence française de développement ([AFD](#) )

Videoconference

April