

## Editorial

With the publication of this newsletter, INSEE aims at better informing on its cooperation activities. For many years, INSEE has provided technical assistance to national statistical institutes of different parts of the world, in order to help beneficiary countries to adapt their statistical system to international standards. INSEE statistical cooperation is carried out either on a bilateral basis, as part of the French cooperation policy, or within the framework of multilateral programmes, under the aegis of international organisations. Over the last decade, priority has been given to cooperation with central European candidate countries, which have to comply with EU requirements. This issue reflects the various aspects of INSEE statistical cooperation activities carried out over the last year.

## EU enlargement and statistical cooperation

*On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, the European Union welcomed 10 new countries<sup>1</sup>. Others will follow, such as Romania and Bulgaria in 2007. These countries had to conduct huge economic and social reforms in order to merge into their new environment. To support them in this process, the European Union has set up aid programmes, the most famous of which is the PHARE programme. This programme includes a significant statistical part in which INSEE plays an important role.*

Statistical cooperation of INSEE with Central European countries started in the nineties with Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. This activity was extended to Hungary in 2000 and more recently to Slovenia.

Cooperation with these countries addresses three main objectives:

- To favour their integration into the European statistical system by taking part in European cooperation programmes and by assisting them to adapt their statistical system to EU standards and requirements,
- To promote and disseminate the European and French methods,
- Lastly, to set up partnerships that may prove useful in the European discussions.

The financing of cooperation was mainly provided by the successive PHARE European programmes. The GIP ADETEF<sup>2</sup> has also an important part in it, particularly for programming missions as well as for the organization of seminars. ADETEF's financings also allow to ensure the continuity of projects over periods when the European funds are not available.

Cooperation with Central European countries approached practically all domains of official statistics. In the first years, it focused above all on economic statistics: business statistics (enterprise registers, structural surveys, short-term indicators), consumer price indexes, foreign trade, national accounts, classifications. Further on, the demand widened towards domains such as demographic and social statistics, structural and short-term economic studies, dissemination, use of administrative sources for statistical purposes, information technology, organization and coordination of the national statistical system, legal issues.

### More and more seminars

INSEE cooperation with candidate countries first developed in the form of bilateral projects giving rise to French experts missions and study visits to France of statisticians from these countries. However, since several years, INSEE has developed the recourse to multilateral seminars and to training sessions. These forms of cooperation have the advantage of easing exchanges of experience between countries and of initiating cooperation among them.

Seminars were organized in 2003 for all the candidate countries, in France or in one of the partner countries, about classifications, PRODCOM (in collaboration with the French Statistical Office of Industry), enterprise groups statistics, as well as a training session in CEFIL, INSEE training centre, about the use of administrative sources for employment and wages statistics. Moreover, the closing seminar of the twinning with the Polish GUS

<sup>1</sup> Cyprus, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia

<sup>2</sup> GIP ADETEF is the executive agency of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry for international cooperation

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about regional statistics saw the participation of several candidate countries. In 2004, seminars already took place about income and living conditions (SILC), about classifications as well as a new seminar in CEFIL on the use of administrative sources for business statistics.

National seminars (for a single country) were also organized in order to get in touch with the whole of institutional actors concerned by a domain of statistics and to help the statistical institute better integrate into its administrative environment:

- Regional statistics in the Czech Republic, in Romania and in Slovakia,
- Comitology and relationships with the European Commission in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia,
- Statistical coordination in the Czech Republic,
- Short-term economic analysis and forecast in Slovakia.

### **Statistical cooperation after membership**

Financing of cooperation with the countries that became members of the European Union on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 should carry on until 2006 while decreasing regularly. The European Commission decided that this cooperation would henceforth be financed by grants awarded only to the statistical institutes of the beneficiary countries, which will be thus able to finance the assistance they receive from their partners of former member

countries, in the form of missions of experts, study visits, training sessions or seminars.

This regular decrease of European financing will go with the reduction of the request for technical assistance from these countries, which could already be observed, and which should continue, as they will be gradually integrated into the regular activities of EUROSTAT.

Answers to these requests will more and more take the form of seminars, for the whole of the countries or for a single partner, and of training sessions.

A new PRODCOM seminar and a seminar about employment statistics for all the acceding and candidate countries are planned by the end of year 2004. Methodological trainings (survey methodology, national accounts, seasonal adjustments) are also planned. Lastly national seminars will be organized in the concerned countries: short-term forecast for the Czech Republic, regional statistics and short-term forecast for Romania.

The candidate countries not yet acceding (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) will carry on being invited to multilateral seminars. INSEE will continue its bilateral cooperation with Romania and a few cooperation actions are planned with Bulgaria and Turkey.

## **The GUS-INSEE twinning**

*Established in 1998 by the European Commission, twinings consist of a contract agreed between administrations of candidate countries to membership in the European Union and those of Member States. These contracts, financed by the national Phare programmes, must allow the setting-up of an efficient organization so that candidate countries could fulfil their obligations vis-à-vis the European Union.*

### **A first experiment of twinning for INSEE**

The twinning between GUS (Central Statistical Office of Poland) and INSEE on regional statistics was launched after a call for candidacies issued in 2001. This new form of technical cooperation started in June 2001 and was completed in December 2003. Its budget of 1 Million Euros was financed by the Phare programme of year 2000.

The choice of INSEE can be explained by its experience as concerns regional statistics and the long cooperation tradition between our institute and its Polish counterpart.

### **The aims and instruments of twinning**

This twinning aimed at 3 essential objectives:

- To adapt Polish regional statistics to European requirements;
- To strengthen the regional statistical offices as concerns management, organisation and IT hardware;
- To develop the information system of regional statistics (geographic information system, data bases...).

It planned different forms of actions to reach them: missions of French experts, but also German and Swedish, to the GUS establishments; visits of GUS officers to France, notably in the regional offices of INSEE; training sessions in Poland provided by Polish training organisms. All of these actions were coordinated by Victor-Pierre Morales, pre-accession adviser seconded by INSEE in Warsaw during one year, then in Paris for the continuation of the project.

### **Financing of statistical cooperation**

Originally, statistical cooperation was mainly financed by the French Ministry in charge of cooperation.

In the nineties, the European Commission set up wide technical assistance programmes, including statistical projects in which INSEE has taken part actively:

- The PHARE programme for Central European countries;
- The TACIS programme for New Independent States from the former Soviet Union;
- The MEDSTAT programme for Mediterranean countries;
- The MERCOSUR programme for South American countries.

Currently, a large part of statistical cooperation activities carried out by INSEE or by other bodies of the French public statistical system is financed by the European Commission, within the framework of European technical assistance programmes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs still finances cooperation, especially in African and some South American countries. Besides, a significant part of INSEE cooperation activities is financed by the GIP ADETEF, which is the executive agency of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry for cooperation.

### **Very satisfying outcomes**

A first assessment of the 2001-2003 twinning on regional statistics between GUS and INSEE was made in the international seminar organized near Warsaw on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2004. Regional statistics was already developed in Poland before but the twinning has allowed to boost its progress. The first objective harmonization with European standards has been globally

reached. Poland set up in 1999 a new territorial division with 16 "voivodies" which make up the NUTS<sup>1</sup> level.

GUS has undertaken an important work of production of statistical series in this new division, in order to address particularly the demands of data transmission to Eurostat. Progress has been achieved in harmonization of methodologies of data production. The twinning has allowed to modernize the IT infrastructure of regional offices. The reinforcement of their capacities has also been sought through an important effort of statistical and IT training of their staff (600 trainees). The bases of an information system have been set up, with the development of a regional data bank and a territorial register.

This system should be fully operational in 2004. Moreover the dialogue with regional users has improved in Poland. Particularly, relationships have developed with institutional interlocutors, which are more associated to the definition of analysis work. Cooperation with regional institutions also aims at improving the use of administrative sources.

GUS appeared particularly interested in the "Portrait of Territory" by INSEE. The setting-up of an analogous product in Poland could be the subject of future cooperation.

<sup>1</sup> NUTS Classification of Statistical Territorial Unit, harmonized at European level

## Cooperation in modelling

*Economic modelling holds a significant place in INSEE cooperation activities. The essential aim of technical assistance in this domain is to produce, in co-operation with local bodies, models that allow these partners to carry out economic analyses and forecasts, and which they will be able to use in an autonomous manner*

### Modelling

Generally speaking, modelling aims at reproducing some kind of reality as exactly as possible through a set of formulae and equations. This definition covers many aspects, according to the fields dealt with, the objectives sought and methods used.

The application scope of the model may be an individual unit like a household or an enterprise, a product, a country or a set of countries. Cooperation actions of INSEE include mainly national or multinational macroeconomic modelling. The model may seek to forecast the close or more remote reality, to know and interpret the consequences of changes of the conditions of economic equilibrium, or quite simply to better understand the general functioning of the latter.

In view of these objectives one will seek to construct:

**A calculable general equilibrium model**, which aims at solving a local problem, most often for a given period of time. The problem is generally associated to the optimal use of available resources and to the definition of relative prices of products. Thus the role of environment, agricultural policies, fiscal policies will be possibly dealt with.

**A model of "VAR" type**, which seeks to forecast as well as possible the near reality, such as the next two quarters, without explicit concern for the coherence of the links between variables. This coherence should be checked automatically through the estimation process.

**A structural macroeconomic model**, which starts from the definition of theoretical behaviours coherent between them, such as household consumption or enterprise investment, through linking them with accounting constraints (income = consumption + savings). The formulae contain unknown coefficients, the value and relevance of which are assessed through comparison with past evolutions. They are so-called econometric methods. This type of model allows to perform forecasts, but also to interpret the consequences of policy decision made such as a cut in income tax. It also allows to improve one's knowledge in the domain.

We focus our efforts on this very type of model.

### Current projects

Cooperation in the modelling domain developed with several countries under the supervision of Jean-Louis Brillet.

- Poland: the rather simple model worked out with the Ministry of Finance has been well used. The current contacts should only address actualisations.

- Vietnam: the project that started in 2002 led to the achievement of a simple but coherent model, which will be developed in 2004 and 2005 with a breaking down products - regions.

- Slovakia: a model framework and a complete database exist. Current work is about equation estimations, and an operational model is scheduled for the end of 2004.

- Mauritania: cooperation will start with the assessment of an existing model. This estimation should lead to a more or less deep overhaul, in 2004 and 2005, in co-operation with the Mauritanian Centre for Policy Analysis.

- Morocco: cooperation with the Directorate for Forecasting and Plan aims to construct in two steps a forecast model, with the end of 2004 as a deadline.

- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN): the objective is to develop multinational models. Currently the Andean Community is dealt with (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela).

Modelling training can be carried out outside a specific project: actions will take place in 2004 in Tunisia and in Lima (Andean Community). They will be based on standard examples, but also on applications to similar countries already completed (Morocco, CEPAL project).

### Specific problems of cooperation in modelling

Cooperation projects have most often a quite constant structure. The aim is to construct a model:

- Adapted to country's economic reality: the standard model of developed countries is often only partially relevant. For these countries, the structure of products and their production mode may be different, the mechanisms of market economy are adopted partially or recently (which poses the problem of formula stability). Thus for Slovakia and Poland, it appears ruled out to take into account information from the socialist period, and even from the beginning of transition.

- Using at best the available information: in fact data are often fragmented, usable over a short period of time, which poses a problem if they are only known with an annual periodicity. Their

definition may change from a period to another and it is often unclear. Some series such as capital ones are most often completely absent; the breakdown of values between volumes and deflators may also be. Thus for Morocco, volume-price measure is only available for value added, not for commodity flow (household consumption or exports for instance). For the latter, there exist indeed approximates, based on the main products exchanged. But the balance is then difficult to establish.

- Making the best of local competencies: these competencies are often scattered, and it is advisable to organize them. Generally, the final user will be a forecasting and analysis institute, but the integration of the local statistical office is very important. In Vietnam, the partners are the Institute of Development Strategy and the General Office for Statistics. In Slovakia, the main interlocutor is Infostat, official institute for forecasting, but the Statistical Office, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance are associated to the project.

- Corresponding to the needs of future users, in their whole:

the partners' needs may also be difficult to identify, but the simple solution consisting in choosing in their place generally leads to failure. That is why it is necessary, at the beginning of each project, to devote enough time to discuss these needs with all the partners, on the basis of written proposals.

- Which can be applied and updated by the partners without assistance: this is the reason why partners must be associated on a permanent basis to the production process, not only through an observation of the latter, but also through an actual participation. Moreover the end of the project, or at least the end of the completion of a finished product, must give rise to the carrying out of descriptive material: economic properties of the model and complete instructions for use, covering all the use modes from the most simple one to the most complex one.

Under all these conditions, one can hope to produce a model with realistic properties and actually usable by our interlocutors. If later, they actually use the tool without needing further help, the project may be deemed as successful.

## The publication of economic accounts of Lebanon

### The setting-up of the project

At the beginning of 2002, the Lebanese Prime Minister requested INSEE to conduct an assessment aiming at examining the conditions of setting up economic accounts of Lebanon and of calculating of macro-economic aggregates necessary to assess the economic situation of the country.

Considering the progress of Lebanese statistics, notably over the year 1997, INSEE proposed a project allowing the Government to have a series of economic accounts for 1997-2001 within three years from the launching of the work.

A consultation meeting took place in April 2002 between the central administration of statistics, the Ministry of Economy and Trade of Lebanon on the one hand, Eurostat, the European Delegation and INSEE on the other hand, in order to organize the work of assessment of national accounts of Lebanon and to set up a medium-term programme 2002-2005 in favour of Lebanese statistics.

### Presentation of accounts

The economic accounts of benchmark year 1997 were presented on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2003 at a press conference in the great seraglio in Beirut, with the presence

of Prime Minister, of Minister of Economy and Trade, of Minister of Finance as well as the Governor of Bank of Lebanon. They include an input-output table in 16 branches as well as financial and non-financial accounts of the nation and of the rest of the world. Because of a lack of statistical data, it was not possible to compile the accounts of institutional sectors (households, enterprises, administrations, etc...)

### Results true to previous estimates

These accounts show a GDP higher by 5% than the previous estimates. They also emphasize the importance of international current transfers typical of strongly labour exporting countries and locate the gross disposable national income (indicator of standard of living) at 20% above GDP.

The results of the work conducted under the supervision of INSEE go therefore well beyond the economic statistics available till then. They allow Lebanese statistics to have henceforth a strong base for the analysis of the national accounts in a point of view of international comparison.

The French contribution to this programme has been the subject of a deep gratitude. The publication of the series 1998-2002 of the accounts is expected in 2004.

## Seminars and workshops

### Acceding and candidate countries to EU

INSEE organized from January 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 a seminar on the new European project "SILC" (Statistics on income and living conditions), in order to address the request of acceding and candidate countries to benefit from the experience of the institute in conducting surveys on income and living conditions and also in following panel samples.

The seminar regrouped 40 participants coming from all acceding countries, including Malta and Cyprus, from candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) as well as from Belgium and Croatia. Their participation was financed

from European budgets (Phare and transition facilities) while organization costs were covered by ADETEF.

As an introduction Eurostat presented the whole project EU-SILC. This project stands in for the "European panel" conducted over the period 1994-2001. Its launching, planned for 2004, addresses increasing requirements from political authorities for reliable and recent data on living conditions, particularly indicators on poverty and social exclusion. The project is designed on the one hand to provide comparable annual data on income, poverty and social exclusion, on the other hand to allow

the longitudinal follow-up of the populations thanks to the building up of panels.

The contributions performed by the various persons in charge of the project in France covered a very wide scope, which included:

- Theoretical and methodological aspects of sampling and estimation, with the participation of Pierre Lavallée, a panel specialist in Statistics Canada;
- Aspects related to organization and implementation of the information collection in the field; the making of survey questionnaires, on the basis of tests performed in 2002 and 2003;
- Results of analyses conducted in France on the income measure and distribution;
- Statistical approaches of poverty observation.

The participants, who will have to implement the SILC survey in their country, expressed their strong satisfaction on the course of the seminar and on the richness of the information they received.

CEFIL, the INSEE training centre, organises every year an **international seminar** for statisticians from acceding and candidate countries, in order to deepen the study of some

## Ukraine

A **seminar on business statistics**, financed by ADETEF, was held in Mukachevo (Ukraine) from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2003. It gathered, from Ukrainian side, representatives of Goskomstat, of regional statistical offices and other administrations. Two French experts introduced the debates and sought to shed on them the light of the French experience. The seminar reached

## Africa

Insee conducted from October 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2003 in Bamako (Mali) a **workshop on the Revision 2007 of the Classifications of activities and products**. This workshop allowed to inform the French-speaking countries of Africa on the current process and to collect their opinion on the revision project of the classification ISIC and on the product classification CPC. Under the aegis of Afristat, the 20 countries present wrote a common answer to the UN questionnaire. To be noted particularly the supported request of these countries for the creation of a specific section in ISIC for the activities of repair-maintenance. (N.B. We remind that France, as practically all European countries, objects to the creation of such a section).

In Bamako was also held a **seminar for Directors of NSIs of Afristat member countries on the management of human resources**, on 23-24 October 2003. This seminar was the first of a series financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of a Priority Solidarity Fund, aimed at helping NSIs set up a policy of human resource management and staff training. Discussions highlighted the huge problems of personnel that these NSIs are facing. It also allowed to exchange experience and to identify steps to motivate the staff, which some NSIs have already implemented.

statistical areas. The topic of the seminar held this year from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004 was **the use of administrative sources for business statistics**. It regrouped 22 participants from acceding or candidate countries of Central Europe. INSEE representatives performed several presentations on the interadministrative register SIRENE, short-term statistics, fiscal data and structural statistics, agriculture and administrative data as well as on regional and local experiments in getting to know the productive system. Moreover representatives of German and Danish statistical institutes presented their experience in the use of administrative data for business statistics. Exchanges of experience took also place between participants, who expressed their satisfaction at the end of the seminar.

Over the last years, INSEE has organised on behalf of Eurostat several **workshops on classifications** for candidate countries. This year, it took place from April 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Hungary. The main topics concerned the revisions 2003 (implementation) and 2007 (on the basis of a revision project of the activity classification ISIC). As usual there were numerous questions on interpretation of the classifications and classifying of units and products.

its objectives, which were both to inform the users on the development of business statistics in Ukraine and to strengthen the coordination of work between the centre and the regions. Recommendations were made in order to improve the quality of the statistical register as well as structural surveys and to better coordinate the dissemination of information.

### Afristat

Afristat is an international organisation created by a Treaty signed in Abidjan on 21 September 1993 by the 14 African members of the Franc Zone. These are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo. As from April 1998 Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau joined Afristat, while Guinea and Cape Verde became Member states respectively in September 2000 and September 2002. In total Afristat comprises 18 Member states. Afristat's objective is to reinforce the development of economic, social and environmental statistics in its Member states and to improve their competence in these areas. Since its activities started in 1996, Afristat has provided technical assistance to the National Statistical Offices of Member states in several statistical areas: organisation and management of statistical systems, national accounts, economic short-term analysis, business statistics, price statistics, agricultural statistics, household surveys, informal sector, data treatment and dissemination. INSEE supports Afristat activities through the secondment of experts, the organisation of seminars and training sessions.

## Missions and study visits (September 2003 - June 2004)

The table below shows the themes of bilateral cooperation activities carried out between September 2003 and June 2004. Cooperation with acceding and candidate countries, which is considered as a priority, has occupied the first place in terms of number of actions. Technical assistance has still been quite active with Mediterranean and South American countries,

which benefit from French funding. On the other hand, cooperation with CIS countries has slowed down, because of the interruption of European TACIS programmes. During that period, the number of missions abroad of French experts has been roughly the same as before, whereas the number of study visits to France of statisticians from beneficiary countries has decreased.

### Acceding and candidate countries

| Countries             | Themes of actions  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
|                       | Missions   | Study visits  |
| <b>Hungary</b>        | Business statistics<br>National accounts<br>Classifications<br>Demography  | Statistical methodology<br>National accounts<br>Demography  |
| <b>Poland</b>         | Dissemination<br>Information Technology<br>Training<br>Social statistics<br>Regional statistics  | Regional statistics<br>Information technology<br>Training   |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | Social statistics<br>Regional statistics<br>Foreign trade statistics<br>Business statistics<br>Coordination<br>Cartography<br>Training | Business statistics<br>Statistical methodology<br>Social statistics<br>Macroeconomics - Modelling<br>Foreign trade statistics |
| <b>Romania</b>        | Tourism statistics<br>Classifications<br>Business statistics<br>Information technology   | Information Technology<br>Business statistics<br>Transport statistics<br>Regional statistics<br>Demography                    |
| <b>Slovakia</b>       | Macroeconomics - Modelling<br>Business statistics  | Classifications<br>Dissemination  |
| <b>Turkey</b>         | Agricultural statistics<br>Classifications   | Information technology  |

### Mediterranean basin

| Countries      | Themes of actions  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
|                | Missions   | Study visits   |
| <b>Morocco</b> | Foreign trade statistics<br>Macroeconomics - Modelling<br>Coordination<br>Demography<br>National accounts - ERETES | Demography<br>Coordination<br>Short-term analysis              |
| <b>Tunisia</b> | Demography<br>Classifications<br>National accounts<br>Training<br>Dissemination<br>Regional statistics             | Statistical methodology<br>Coordination<br>Business statistics |
| <b>Lebanon</b> | National accounts<br>Social statistics   | National accounts  |
| <b>Syria</b>   | Assessment of statistical system   |  |

### Subsaharan Africa

| Countries         | Themes of actions                                |              |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
|                   | Missions   | Study visits |
| <b>Cameroon</b>   | National accounts - ERETES                       |              |
| <b>Mali</b>       | Management of human resources<br>Classifications |              |
| <b>Mauritania</b> | Macroeconomics - Modelling                       |              |

## CIS countries

| Countries | Themes of actions                              |              |
|-----------|--|--------------|
|           | Missions                                       | Study visits |
| Moldova   | Business statistics<br>Enterprise registers    |              |
| Ukraine   | Business statistics<br>Statistical methodology |              |
| Russia    | Social statistics                              |              |

## Latin America

| Countries | Themes of actions   |                        |
|-----------|---|------------------------|
|           | Missions  | Study visits           |
| Argentina | Enterprise registers<br>Dissemination                         |                        |
| Bolivia   | National accounts   |                        |
| Chile     | Demography<br>Short-term analysis                             | Information Technology |
| Ecuador   | National accounts - ERETES<br>Short term analysis<br>Training |                        |
| Mexico    | Coordination<br>Organization of judiciary statistics          | Training               |
| Peru      | Harmonized price indices                                      |                        |
| Venezuela | Training  |                        |

## Asia

| Countries | Themes of actions                      |   |
|-----------|--|---|
|           | Missions                               | Study visits                                    |
| China     |  | Business statistics<br>Enterprise registers     |
| Vietnam   | Macroeconomics - Modelling<br>Training | Training<br>Modernization of statistical system |



## A software to compile national accounts

### Presentation

Developed on behalf of EUROSTAT and of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ERETES is a support software to the compilation of national accounts. It operates from a database around which various technical tools (Supply and Uses Balances, branch accounts, matrices of who to whom, synthesis tables) or organizational tools (work follow-up, notepads, online help) allow a coordinated and consistent team work. The product now exists in three linguistic versions: French, English and Spanish.

In its first version, this program only concerned the goods and services accounts. The version 3.1 checked and taken over in September 2001, has also allowed the compilation of institutional sector accounts up to the financial account (but balance sheet accounts excluded). During the year 2002, the

technical team carried out new developments that led to version 3.2. These developments correspond:

- To improvements requested by the users on existing tools
- To two new, very important tools:
  - A management tool for classifications
  - A tool for aided coding in institutional sectors of data arbitrated in the framework of production and generation of income accounts by branch.

The steering committee of ERETES (authority regrouping the two owners and the institutions implied in technical assistance: INSEE and Afristat) has endorsed for year 2003 a working programme devoted to accompanying version 3.2 of the module: development of educational tools and presentation documents of the software, starting of an in-depth study on its use and

feasibility study on its adaptation to the compilation of provisional accounts.

In 2004, the study on ERETES use has been carried on: a questionnaire detailing its functionalities has been submitted to a sample of users. An international meeting of ERETES users is due from September 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Libourne (France) to discuss the answers collected. On this basis, and from proposals made by the technical team, will be decided priorities of development of further functionalities for the year 2005 programme. Since the opening of the site [www.eretes.org](http://www.eretes.org) in April 2004, the community of users also has a forum for discussion, as well as a library, which allows downloading various tools: updates of the software, help files,

training modules, etc...Lastly, a prototype of tool for provisional accounts is currently in test phase. It allows to construct a base, the classifications of which are less detailed than for final accounts and to load there economic data of the latest year of available accounts after having aggregated them in accordance with these new classifications.

#### ERETES sites

At the beginning, the sites were focused on French-speaking Sub Saharan Africa. Now, the sites belong to more than 20 countries: generalization in UEMOA<sup>1</sup>, Central Africa, French overseas "départements", Latin America countries, Maghreb, some English-speaking Africa countries.

<sup>1</sup> West African Monetary and Economic Union

| Country                        | Date of installation | Already carried out                 | In progress                 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Africa</b>                  |                      |                                     |                             |
| Benin                          | 2001                 | Benchmark year 1999                 | Current year 2000           |
| Botswana                       | 2000                 |                                     |                             |
| Burkina Faso                   | 2002                 |                                     | Benchmark year 1999         |
| Cameroon                       | 1997                 | Benchmark years 89/90 Current years | Current year 98/99          |
| Cabo Verde                     | 2004                 |                                     | Benchmark year 2000         |
| Central Africa                 | 1997                 | Benchmark year 1988 current years   | Current year 1997           |
| Ivory Coast                    | 1997                 | Benchmark year 1996 Current years   | Current year 1999           |
| Gabon                          | 2002                 |                                     | Benchmark year 2001         |
| Ghana                          | 1998                 |                                     |                             |
| Madagascar                     | 2001                 |                                     |                             |
| Mali                           | 1998                 | Benchmark year 1997                 | Current year 1998           |
| Mauritania                     | 2000                 | Benchmark year 1998                 | Current year 1999           |
| Niger                          | 2001                 |                                     | Benchmark year 2000         |
| Nigeria                        | 2001                 |                                     |                             |
| Senegal                        | 2001                 |                                     | Benchmark year 1999         |
| Togo                           | 2002                 |                                     | Benchmark year 2000         |
| <b>Mediterranean countries</b> |                      |                                     |                             |
| Algeria                        | 2003                 |                                     | Benchmark year 2001         |
| Morocco                        | 2001                 | Benchmark year 1998                 | Current years 1999 and 2000 |
| Tunisia                        | 1999                 |                                     |                             |
| <b>Overseas depart.</b>        |                      |                                     |                             |
| Antilles-French Guiana         | 1999                 | Series 1993-2000                    | Current year 2001           |
| Réunion                        | 2000                 | Series 1993-1998                    | Current year 2000           |
| <b>Latin America</b>           |                      |                                     |                             |
| Brazil                         | 2001                 | Test year 1999                      | Benchmark year 2000         |
| Colombia                       | 2003                 |                                     | Benchmark year 2000         |
| Ecuador                        | 2000                 |                                     | Benchmark year 2001         |
| Peru                           | 2001                 |                                     |                             |

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