



**REGIONAL PROGRAMS FOR NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS  
(NSDS)**

The 2004-2006 PARIS21 Work program, and the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics call for all developing countries to have a National Strategy for the Development Strategy of Statistics (NSDS) by mid-2006, and able to produce data for development policies and MDGs by 2010. While developing at international level guidelines related to the NSDS, and advocacy activities and material, PARIS21 will assist countries to reach this objective through Regional Programs.

Delivering regional programs is therefore at the heart of PARIS21 work. The purpose of the programs is to support countries in the design and implementation of their NSDS. It is recognized that low-income countries will get priority in PARIS21 support. These programs draw on the recommendations of the regional workshops held during PARIS21's first phase where there was an overall support for the key principles of PARIS21.

The PARIS21 Secretariat is in the process of designing such programs with timetables and costs for each region. The Secretariat is holding informal consultations with appropriate key partners from the region to produce draft programs, which will be then discussed during existing statistical events of the region and forwarded to partners for their support. Geographical advisors of the Secretariat are in charge of developing and implement regional programs.

**COVERAGE**

PARIS21 coverage includes developing countries, with priority for HIPC, IDA, and PRSP countries. Countries will be put together in regions, and sub regions. There are many ways to aggregate countries. We will use the following parameters: geographical, language spoken, and be part of a sub regional institution, which will be the most efficient to implement the work program.

**STRATEGY**

PARIS21 will reach countries through activities mainly organized at regional and sub regional level. To reach the objective fixed, PARIS21 will use the existing regional and sub regional institutions and programs to deliver its work program. In particular building and strengthening regional partnership will be a key feature of PARIS21 regional program. PARIS21 ultimate objective is to convince international and regional institutions to include support to NSDS within their regular work program.

**TYPE OF ACTIVITIES**

The activities of regional programs will depend on the status of the countries statistical systems as well as their commitment to change. The regional program would include the activities aimed at supporting countries in the design of NSDS directly and indirectly. They are summarized in the following table.



**PARIS21 Regional programs summary table**

<b>Country NSDS Program</b>		
<b>NSDS DESIGN</b>		<b>NSDS IMPLEMENTATION</b>
Phase 1: Political commitment and launching (road map)	Phase 2: Assessment Phase 3: Vision and strategy Phase 4: Action Plans	Implementation
<b>PARIS21 Activities</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocacy</li> <li>▪ Baseline assessment</li> <li>▪ <b>Regional workshop</b> (road map)</li> <li>▪ Facilitating road map funding</li> <li>▪ Facilitating technical assistance</li> <li>▪ Strengthening partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitation NSDS funding</li> <li>▪ Regional workshops (2)</li> <li>▪ Reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional workshops</li> <li>▪ Reporting</li> </ul>
<b>Sources of funding</b>		
PARIS21, other sources	WB-TFSCB and other sources	ODA, STATCAP,
<b>Time table (estimate)</b>		
3 months	6 to 12 months	5 years
<b>Approximate cost per country</b>		

**ADVOCACY**

The advocacy activities will include the identification and delivery of PARIS21 messages to specific audiences using selected speakers during existing events utilising appropriate media. They are aimed at three key audiences:

- i. **Country policy makers.** The strategy is to use existing regional or international meetings to present issues related to statistical capacity development, the use of data in policy making, and the need for a national strategy for the development of statistics to key policy makers of developing countries such as ministers of finance, sector ministers, PRSP Coordinators etc. One output could be official resolution or decision related to NSDS taken by official “policy” regional bodies.

Examples:

- Presentation of the DAC Chairman at the Meeting of the Franc Zone Ministers of Finances in Paris in September 2004;
- Introduce a resolution at the next meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States to support the design of NSDS in Arab countries.



- ii. **Country statistical system managers.** Most of the country managers (heads of CSO, etc.) have been exposed to the strategic approach of statistics development and NSDS, for instance during the last PARIS21 regional meetings and in others statistics instances such as AFRISTAT Heads of CSO meeting in Bamako in 2003, LAS Statistical Committee meeting in Rabat in 2004, Andean Community Statistical Committee meeting in Quito in 2004, etc. This activity include organisation of presentation of PARIS21 agenda issues and NSDS in the regular statistics meetings related to regional institutions.
- iii. **International and regional agencies.** The audience to be reached is the regional institutions providing support to statistical development as well as the part of international and multilateral institutions dealing with the region. The objective is to coordinate PARIS21 activities with the institution work programs, with the medium term objective to include support to NSDS within their regular work program. The Regional Development Banks, the UN Economic Commissions, the specific department of World Bank, IMF, EU, etc. are the primary targets.

#### BASE LINE ASSESSMENT

It will be crucial to establish a base line against which progress could be measured in the development of NSDS and more generally in the use of statistics for development. This baseline is also needed to establish a PARIS21 tailored program to support countries. Finally this base line could be an important input in the world wide report if one is to be produced. PARLISTAT could be used to be a repository of these reports.

There is already a large documentation available, and different types of evaluations have been carried out in many countries. Several questionnaires have been developed including the SCBI. The main focus would be to identify what precise support countries are asking for to develop NSDS. An example is the review done for West Africa Francophone countries where countries' needs are identified, on which the regional program for these countries will be based.

#### REGIONAL WORKSHOPS: SUPPORT TO NSDS ELABORATION

The heart of regional programmes will to assist countries of a region to design NSDS. It has been proven that regional workshops are an efficient way to reach countries, to promote cross fertilisation, to improve donors' collaboration, and to build a community of knowledge. Regional Programs will include organisation of regional workshops to promote, initiate, train, follow up, share experiences, and report on NSDS elaboration. The agenda of specific meetings will depend on the countries status and needs as defined from the baseline assessment, and various consultations with partners. It is likely that there will be the following workshops at 6 to 8 month of intervals :

- NSDS launching workshop aimed to initiate and present NSDS approach based on the Guidelines. It is aimed at NSO heads and key policy makers and multilateral/regional institutions. The outputs are the draft road maps for NSDS, and financing arrangements to support countries for the NSDS design. A good example is the Panama meeting for Central America countries.
- Mid-term workshop aimed to share experiences, issues and success at the time of vision and strategic planning phases. It is likely that countries of the region won't be at the same stage. It is aimed at the NSDS design team and donors.
- NSDS finalization workshop aimed to share experiences before the finalization of countries' NSDS papers. It is aimed at a larger audience including NSDS design teams, policy makers, donors involved in particular ones who likely to support the implementation of NSDS, and experienced persons resource.



Between meetings PARIS21 would provide follow up of the NSDS design process with a strong involvement of partners.

#### FACILITATION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NSDS DESIGN

Countries usually need financial support to design their NSDS. PARIS21 will advise countries on how to have access to the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), and on other sources such as UNDP, EU, Regional Development Banks, and other bilateral funding available at country level. This will include dissemination of documents and sample request, providing assistance to complete necessary documents, liaising with TFSCB and other sources, follow up, and other assistance needed. A staff member within the PARIS21 Secretariat will be in charge of this activity crucial for the development of NSDS.

#### FACILITATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT FOR NSDS DESIGN

Countries have usually needs of technical assistance to design their NSDS. The tendency is for these countries to hire a consultant to assist and advise the design team. Strong attention should be paid to the qualification and the philosophy of consultants hired to assist countries in designing the NSDS. PARIS21 has developed a roster of consultants, but need to update it and provide some information about consultant experience and competence on NSDS.

In many cases there is capacity available in neighboring countries like for instance in Latin America. Countries also could participate in a peer review type process during key phases of NSDS design. PARIS21 will help in identifying such staff, and in facilitating their involvement in NSDS design. In some case it could be envisaged to train consultants in providing assistance in NSDS design.

#### PARTNERSHIP AND DONOR COOPERATION

Partnership is a key feature of PARIS21, and support to NSDS will include deepening the international partnership to regional and sub regional level. The objective is two fold: first to ensure that donors would support countries in the design of NSDS; and secondly that at country level representatives of donors and agencies will be part of the NSDS process.

It is understood that the funding of NSDS implementation will be the focus of donor collaboration and PARIS21 secretariat includes an advisor in charge of this activity.

Mechanisms of collaboration would include: light newsletter, systematic invitations to NSDS related meetings, follow up of decisions, etc.

#### REPORTING ON PROGRESS FOR THE REGION BASED ON COUNTRY PRODUCED REPORTS.

Reporting on progress and issues of NSDS design and implementation is part of the national strategy, and countries will be invited to produce such reports. They will be used to report on the progress and issues at regional level, on a yearly basis. Starting with baseline information, they will give an overall assessment of the achievements towards PARIS21 objectives.

In addition countries will be asked to share good practices, examples, and documents produced during the design (and later on of the implementation) on NSDS. They will feed the NSDS knowledge base, and be widely disseminated.



## SUPPORT TO AND FOLLOW UP OF NSDS IMPLEMENTATION

Specific programs will be designed to support countries in the implementation stages of NSDS. They will include regional workshops to share experiences, and reporting on the implementation progress, issues, and constraints as well as successes and best practices.

Paris, June 11, 2004.