



Proposed Task Team to Improve Regional and Global Partnership in Training for Official Statisticians

Terms of Reference

Background

Training for official statisticians is the cornerstone of statistical capacity building in developing countries, and must be addressed in the design of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and in particular in a human resources strategy. Today there is a need to gather knowledge on the development of training and to establish a specific strategy to develop training programmes.

In addition, statistical training curricula have to be adapted to an ever changing environment and take into account the new concepts and country needs. Finally, the partnership in training of official statisticians includes National Statistical Institutes, International Statistical Agencies, Training Institutes for Statisticians, and Academic Institutions. They have to collaborate better to set up training programmes and training aids and to promote exchanges.

PARIS21 therefore proposes to establish a task team on improving the regional and global partnership in training for official statisticians.

Objectives

The objectives of this task team are to:

- (i) Produce guidelines for statistical system managers in developing countries on how to address training issues in the design of national strategies for the development of statistics;
- (ii) Advocate towards national policy-makers and donors on the necessity of supporting training institutions and training programmes in statistics;
- (iii) Propose a mechanism to coordinate international actions to support training activities in statistics, and adapt them to a changing environment; and
- (iv) Stimulate the dissemination of "best practices" and the exchange of training materials and expertise related to statistical training among countries and organisations involved in statistical training.

Activities

The task team will:

1. Strengthen the linkages between the national statistical offices and the training institutions (international, regional, and national) to ensure that the needs of the statistical systems will be met. In particular to allow the national statistical systems to have the capacity to satisfy the main challenges they face such as SNA93, poverty monitoring system, MDG indicators, designing strategies for the development of statistics; new methods of population censuses, etc.
2. Develop models for the best training approaches (that can vary from classroom training, on-the-job training through exchange programmes and online training through Internet) for the most common forms of training needs for the respective staff levels in the National Statistical Institutes.



3. Elaborate decision trees and templates that enable National Statistical Institutes to monitor the internal training needs and to draft structured training programmes, responding to national strategies for the development of statistics and related statistical work programmes.
4. Carry out an inventory of national and international organisations who are involved in training aspects of statistical capacity building in the field of official statistics and are interested to take part in international partnerships and to share experiences, knowledge, and materials.
5. Draft quality guidelines for the assessment of statistical training courses and training materials and design procedures for the accreditation and certification of courses and materials.
6. Conduct six case studies on selected countries to validate the findings of items three to five above, to identify the key barriers and problems faced by those countries in the formulation of training needs and the subsequent response to these needs. These may be conducted through desk studies or country visits, or a combination of both, but will involve participation of the countries themselves. Appropriate countries for the case studies will be selected by the team to reflect a geographical balance. The focus should be on countries where there is a commitment of the NSI to use the partnership for the training activities.

Results

The expected outcomes will be:

- guidelines to enable countries to develop appropriate strategies for the staff development aspect of statistical capacity building that outline the role and responsibility of each of the partners and demonstrate the financial viability;
- a common philosophy towards professional training and quality aspects of training;
- the identification of common interests;
- proposed communication channels between the partners enabling swift follow-up of decisions and implementation of actions and procedures;
- proposed platforms for the exchange of experiences between the trainers (training methods, technology, materials, etc.).

Reporting/information

1. A knowledge and information base to help countries more easily identify their training needs and to identify the best regional and international partners to help them in the execution of their training plans.
2. Reports on each of the studies.
3. A final report summarising findings and results.

Members and processes

It is proposed that UN-SIAP acts as convenor to lead the work. The task team should comprise (12) nominees, with a rough balance between NSI, International Statistical Agencies, Professional Training Institutes, and academic institutions. The task team will report to the PARIS21 Steering Committee through the PARIS21 Secretariat manager. As a first activity, the convenor—with the support of the PARIS21 Secretariat and one representative of each category of bodies involved—will draft more detailed terms of reference including a timetable and a clear picture of resources needed for each of the different phases.

The task team's lifespan will in the first instance be limited to two years. An estimate of the maximum cost to be supported by the PARIS21 Secretariat is Euros 70,000 to cover task team meetings and consultants.