

# PASII ECOBUSAF and SOCSTAF newsletter



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## Editorial

ECOBUSAF and SOCSTAF are two components of the Pan-African Statistics Programme II (PAS II) funded by the EU, which has entrusted its implementation to European statistical institutes (Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Norway and Poland) working in consortia. These components aim at supporting African integration through the reinforcement of national, regional and continental statistical systems. by developing social statistics (SOCSTAF) and economic and business statistics (ECOBUSAF) in national statistical offices of the African union countries.

The activity plans have been defined following an inception phase, in spring 2022, dedicated to the evaluation of countries' situation and needs in the covered domains (National accounts and statistical business registers for ECOBUSAF, administrative and alternative data, SDGs, dissemination and communication, labor force statistics and informal employment, and demographic, education and health statistics for SOCSTAF). The African national statistical offices (NSOs) were called upon to express their interest in taking part in the projects. 37 countries answered positively.

Most of the activities for both components started in 2023, except for the trainings which started implementation in 2022.

This is the first issue of an annual newsletter highlighting the major events organised as part of the ECOBUSAF and SOCSTAF projects. It is also a good opportunity to spotlight the African NSOs which we have been working more closely with, keep in touch with our partners and more broadly with stakeholders that play a role in statistics in Africa.

This edition features the flagship activities implemented in 2023; it provides some statistics on the implemented activities and the list of countries that have taken part in our activities; it also announces some events that will take place in 2024.

Enjoy your reading!

## Study visit on Labor Force Statistics and Informality - 18 to 22 September - Paris

Insee hosted a study visit on employment statistics and the informal sector, attended by 22 representatives from 12 African Union countries (Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Sao Tome and Tunisia).

The visit, co-hosted by experts from INSEE, Statistics Denmark, Afristat and the ILO, looked at employment statistics from various angles: how to collect information on informal employment, how to access and use administrative sources relating to employment, how to disseminate the results to which audiences, how to improve the methodology and quality of employment surveys, etc.

For the first time, representatives from English-speaking African countries took part to an event organized by Insee and were able to exchange views with representatives from French-speaking countries, with which INSEE has a long tradition of cooperation. Discussions were organised in a participatory mode, encouraging exchanges of experience between participants and with the speakers.

The participants appreciated the quality of the exchanges with both the experts and the other participants, as well as the opportunity to share their experiences and best practices. They expressed the need to continue the discussions after the study visit through an exchange network to be set up.



**Danish impressions from the study visit:** Our colleagues from Africa gave their verdict during the debriefing session: some important and useful conclusions regarding the development of the statistics on informal employment and the informal sector had been reached after a week with many interesting discussions. We, from Statistics Denmark, probably learned even more about the statistical reality in Africa. Our main contribution probably was to encourage our colleagues to keep pushing for administrative data. While administrative data at present is far from a satisfactory or adequate data source in many African countries, they can play a big role as the formal sector gradually takes a bigger role, as compared to the informal sector. Another joint learning had to do with the need not only for surveys on (formal and informal) employment, but also to follow-up on these surveys, and to conduct separate surveys on the informal sector. The study visit was not only meaningful from a strictly professional point of view. Human bonds were created, and the atmosphere in the meeting rooms was pleasant and humoristic.

## Danish Expertise Empowers Senegal's Business Register

In November 2023, two experts from Statistics Denmark visited Agence nationale de la statistique et de la démographie (ANSD) – the national statistical institution in Senegal – to discuss how to update, structure and manage business registers. This led to a large number of discussions about strengths and weaknesses of business registers in general based on the experts' experiences from Denmark and from other countries.

During the mission, the experts also met with The Directorate General of Taxes and Domains to discuss cooperation on digital registration of businesses.

In the coming year, ANSD will continue to implement a new common, central, administrative Business Register and integrate it with other systems in The Directorate General of taxes and domains and registre du commerce et du mobilier.

The result will be a regular update of the statistical business register by using already existing administrative data!



## Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA) hosts mission on the Statistical Business Register

The Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA) is in the process to launch a new and modernized Statistical Business Register (SBR). NSA has established a new SBR division, which will be responsible for running the SBR, as well as creating sample frames and draw samples for internal and external users.

In February 2023, two experts from Statistics Norway visited the NSA for a scoping mission on the SBR. Some of the topics covered during the week were sampling for business surveys, quality controls of SBR data, and linking data sources and profiling.

The team had several meetings with existing and future data providers to the SBR, including the Business Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), the Social Security Commission (SSC), Namibia Revenue Agency (NAMRA) and the City of Windhoek. Meetings with internal users of the SBR were also important, like the national accounts team, which will be key users of the new SBR.

## Statistics Finland has partnered with Statistics Mauritius within the ECOBUSAF component

Cooperation between Statistics Finland and Statistics Mauritius on Statistical business register was launched during an online kick off meeting (7 February 2023). A very fruitful first technical assistance (TA) mission to Mauritius took place (24-27 April 2023) with an emphasis on the statistical business register (SBR), its development needs and areas to be improved further during the project life cycle. This first on-site mission concentrated on reviewing the current situation in Mauritius, presenting best practices of the EU and experiences in Finland in the field of business statistics and SBR. The Roadmap for TA was finalized and agreed upon as the basis for future activities.

The second on-site Activity (23-27 October 2023) focused on furthering cooperation with administrative data suppliers; e.g. tax authority and their business registrar. Meetings were held with both entities to facilitate further cooperation and enhancing data sharing between organizations. In addition, the use of quality frameworks in statistical institutions and a national quality framework was introduced as well as enterprise- and information architecture as a tool for management and development work.

The Joint Webinar (held on 28 October) was the first online training session where member States participants: Denmark, Finland, Norway and beneficiary countries participants: Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal had an opportunity to be introduced. It was chaired by Statistics Norway and included presentations on respective national SBRs from the three beneficiary countries. In addition, participants expressed their interests for subjects in future online training sessions during the project.



## Training workshop on dissemination and communication of statistics at National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria (NBS)

A Training Workshop in September (4-7 September 2023) was held at the NBS premises in Abuja on selected aspects of dissemination and communication of statistics, conducted by Statistics Finland experts and with active classroom involvement. After the opening ceremony, the topics encompassed, on the one hand, paper and online publications (incl. web articles and blog posts), statistical production and dissemination process, release practices and platforms (including presenting the Px product family for statistics dissemination) and good practices of data visualization.



On the other hand, the development of media relations and social media strategy were discussed. A long and interesting discussion arose about the use of social media, thus deepening the reflection towards the concrete questions that would be most topical for NBS colleagues in their everyday work and in promoting the use of statistical information.

## TRAININGS

In 2023 (April 18-20), **Statistics Poland conducted the second workshop on the implementation of population and housing censuses**. It was attended by representatives of the African Statistical Offices from Angola, Eswatini, Gambia, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia and Tunisia.

**The aim of the workshop** was to guide participants through a number of activities that need to be initiated to organize the census. The participants were familiarized with the structure of the census apparatus, as well as the procedures necessary in the event of unexpected circumstances, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The following topics were presented: census methods used in the last census in Poland, i.e. online self-enumeration, telephone and face-to-face interviews, and on-demand census. The participants were also familiarized with the methods of recruiting enumerators and the possibilities of controlling their work. All activities were based on experiences from the last census organized in Poland in 2021.

The above topics covered the needs of African countries in the implementation of censuses, and the workshop was met with positive feedback.

*"And a great motivation since we, as an institution, are preparing to carry out the census and the topics to be addressed meet our needs"*

*"To open up to the experiences of other countries."*

*"I salute all the trainers for the quality of the presentations."*

In 2022, a first workshop on preparatory work for the censuses was conducted, while in 2024, the third and last workshop on post-census works will be held, which is also a summary of the first two.

**The overall objective of Statistics Poland's** activities within the first phase of the PAS II project is sharing knowledge and experience in carrying out censuses with African countries. The key goal is to show countries how important censuses are amongst statistical surveys and how widely the collected data is used. The transferred knowledge will allow the participants of the trainings to organise the censuses in their countries more effectively.



During 2022-2023, the **National Statistics Institute of Spain (INE Spain)** has implemented 7 online training activities in the framework of the Pan-African Statistics Programme II (PAS II) of the European Commission.

A first positive sign was the high demand to participate in these trainings, having received a total of 341 applications from 45 different African Union countries. It showed a big interest in the different fields and a great motivation to participate in these online training activities.

At least two participants per country have participated in each of the courses. Through these courses, a total of 246 statisticians working at the service of a public administration have been trained by INE Spain, with the aim to improve the production and dissemination of official statistics in African Union countries.

So far, within the ECOBUSAF component, INE Spain has carried out two editions of an online course on National Accounts, in 2022 and in 2023.

Additionally, within the SOCSTAF component, INE Spain has carried out two editions of an online on Demographic Indicators, one online course on SDG indicators and two online trainings on Health and Education statistics.

***"I am grateful to the Spanish National Institute of Statistics for the opportunity to embark on the National Accounts course. I benefited a lot and my expectations were met as the course material explains concepts in detail."***

All activities have offered a great opportunity for participants from different African regions to interact and learn about different matters and share knowledge with experts from a European National Statistics Institute; INE Spain.

The online trainings have been conducted in English and in some cases, documentation has also been provided in Spanish and French.

***"I can only thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important training, rich in knowledge in my area of work." "I really appreciate this great full training; it was interesting. The facilitators presented well during the training and the technique they used was amazing"***

It is worth mentioning some of the results obtained through the course satisfaction surveys that are collected after each activity. In this respect, 95% percent of participants are satisfied or very satisfied with the courses and 100% think that it will help them for their current / future works.

Finally, INE Spain is willing to continue supporting more participants in coming training courses, following the success obtained and the great results.

***"I appreciate the presentation of the course in several languages. It makes it easier for everyone to understand".***



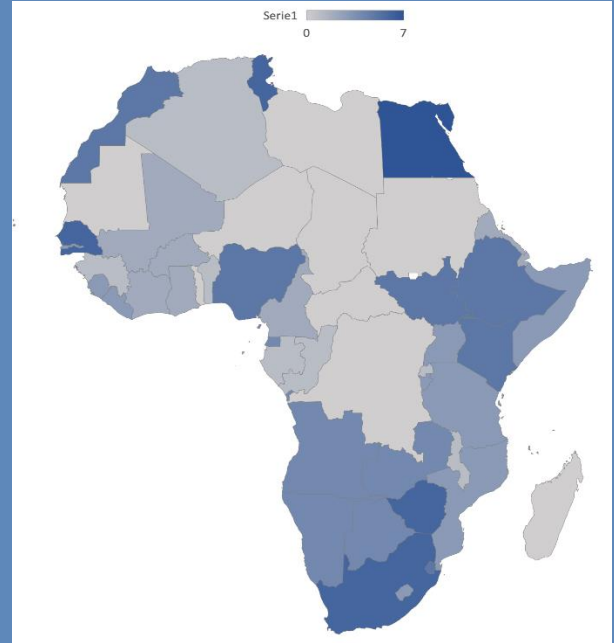
The PAS II programme is funded by the European Union

## Countries that have participated in our activities in 2023

Countries that have participated in online workshops, study visits or received technical assistance missions









Countries that have attended online trainings



### List of performed activities:

Implementing member	Grant	Countries	Type of activity	Content	Date (month)
Statistisk sentralbyrå Statistics Norway	ECOBUSAF	Namibia	TA mission	Statistical Business Register	Feb. 2023
Statistics Finland	ECOBUSAF	Mauritius	TA mission	Statistical Business Register	April 2023
Insee	ECOBUSAF	Liberia	TA mission	SNA2008 implementation	May 2023
Insee	ECOBUSAF	Tunisia	TA mission	ERETES implementation	July, Sept. 2023
Insee	ECOBUSAF	Côte d'Ivoire	TA mission	Regional accounts	Sept., Dec. 2023
Statistics Finland	ECOBUSAF	Mauritius	TA mission	Statistical Business Register: Identifying and accessing administrative data sources	Oct. 2023
Insee	ECOBUSAF	Morocco, Cameroon, Senegal, Cabo Verde	Workshop	2025 SNA : inclusion of informal sector in NA	Nov. 2023
STATISTICS DENMARK	ECOBUSAF	Senegal	TA mission	Statistical Business Register	Nov. 2023

	ECOBUSAF	Morocco	TA mission	2025 SNA : distributed households accounts	Dec. 2023
	SOCSTAF	Côte d'Ivoire	Virtual exchanges	Labor force statistics: set up of a quarterly survey	Jan., Sept. Dec. 2023
	SOCSTAF	11 countries	Study visit	Labor force statistics and informal employment	Sept. 2023
	SOCSTAF	Nigeria	Workshop Training	Dissemination and Communication of Statistics	Sept. 2023
	SOCSTAF	South Africa	Virtual exchanges	Preparation of TA mission on admin data	Several meetings in Oct.-Dec. 2023
	SOCSTAF	Benin	Virtual exchanges	Hackathon preparation	Several meetings all along the year

### INE-Spain: Online trainings carried out in 2022-2023:

PASII component	Year	
SOCSTAF	2022	SDG indicators for 2030 Agenda – 1 <sup>st</sup> edition
	2022	Demographic indicators – 1 <sup>st</sup> edition
	2023	Demographic indicators – 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition
	2023	Health statistics – 1 <sup>st</sup> edition
	2023	Education statistics – 1 <sup>st</sup> edition
ECOBUSAF	2022	National Accounts – 1 <sup>st</sup> edition
	2023	National Accounts – 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition

### Statistics Poland: Online workshops carried out in 2022-2023

PASII component	Year	
SOCSTAF	2022	1 <sup>st</sup> online workshop on how to prepare the censuses: what action to take in the preparatory phase
	2023	2 <sup>nd</sup> online workshop on conducting the censuses



## Next multi-country activities

Date	Component	Organizing EU partners	Activity
19 <sup>th</sup> February 24	ECOBUSAF	Insee, Statistics Norway, Statistics Denmark	Virtual workshop on tourism satellite accounts (English version)
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 24	ECOBUSAF	Insee, Statistics Norway, Statistics Denmark	Virtual workshop on tourism satellite accounts (French version)
February 2024	ECOBUSAF	Statistics Norway	Virtual training on sampling
8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> April 24	SOCSTAF-ECOBUSAF	Insee	Virtual hackathon
May-June 2024	SOCSTAF	Statistics Poland, Insee	Onsite workshop (Tunis) on population and housing census
Q2 2024	ECOBUSAF	Statistics Norway	Study visit on Statistical Business Register
October 2024	ECOBUSAF	Insee	New ERETES version dissemination workshop
November 2024	ECOBUSAF	Insee	Onsite workshop (Tunis) on national accounts
Décembre 2022	ECOBUSAF	Insee	Training for trainers on ERETES onsite (Tunis) workshop

## Next online trainings (INE Spain)

Date	Component	Subject
20 May-9 June 2024	SOCSTAF	Demographic indicators
21-22 May 2024	SOCSTAF	Health statistics
11-12 June 2024	SOCSTAF	Education statistics
31 October-10 November 2024	SOCSTAF	SDG indicators for 2030 Agenda
12-13 November 2024	ECOBUSAF	Management of the National Business Register and uses for Business Demography Statistics