

CARIBBEAN

COMMUNITY

SECRETARIAT

THIRTY- FIFTH MEETING OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS

SCCS/2010/35/15

Roseau, Dominica  
08 – 09 November 2010

9 November 2010

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**STATISTICAL SUB- COMMITTEE**

**PROJECT STATUS REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD**

**1 OCTOBER 2009 TO 31 OCTOBER 2010**

**COMPONENT: SUPPORT TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND HARMONISED  
PRODUCTION OF ECONOMIC STATISTICAL DATA AT THE REGIONAL  
AND NATIONAL LEVELS**

**PREPARED BY: REGIONAL STATISTICS SUB- PROGRAMME**

**DATE: OCTOBER 2010**

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# CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

## 1. ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

### Result 4.1: Inter-Regional Statistical Infrastructure Harmonised

4.1.1 Improve Coordination within the Standing Committee for Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Dominican Republic (DR)

*Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) and Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)*

**The Project provided support to the series of Meetings:**

- Limited support to the Sixth and Seventh Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) meetings held Christ Church, Barbados, July 19-21 2010, and Roseau Dominica, 5-6 November 2010;
- Thirty- fifth SCCS meeting Roseau, Dominica November 8-9;
- Limited Support to the Seventeen meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee;
- The Eighteen meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee, 10-12 November 2010;
- Second and Third Regional Statistical Research Seminars 31 October 2009 and 12 November 2010.

### **Haiti and Dominican Republic Assessment**

- A consultant has been recruited and has commenced work;
- Project Briefing Meeting was held on 15 October in Georgetown, Guyana;
- The relevant Member States have been informed of the commencement of this project;
- A Draft Inception Report has been submitted and the consultant is about to schedule visits to relevant institutions and stakeholders.

### **Support for Training and Meeting**

- The Project provided support to the training workshop on the use of Satellite Imagery for the preparation of Census Maps held in Belize from February 23-26 2010;
- The Project provided support to one Member State; Suriname for the attendance of a senior officer to the Ninth meeting of the executive Committee of the SCAs of ECLAC Santiago Chile from April 20-22 2010.

### **Support for Conference on Poverty Measurement in Suriname**

- The Project supported the participation of two Member States, Jamaica, St. Lucia and one representative from the CARICOM Secretariat to participate in a Poverty assessment conference held in Paramaribo, Suriname 24- 25 August 2010.

### **Support for Activities to commemorate Caribbean and World Statistics Day**

- The project supported the activities to mark Caribbean and World and Statistics Day celebrated on 15 and 20 October 2010 respectively;

#### ***4.1.2 Establish Statistics Help Desk***

- A consultant has been identified and the Project Briefing Meeting was convened on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2010;
- The Inception Report was submitted by the consultant;
- The Revised Draft Inception Report and a Report with the outline of resources document has been submitted by the consultant;
- The CARICOM Secretariat has provided feed back to the consultant on the documents.

#### ***4.1.3. Improve Organisation and use of Statistical Databases***

- A consultant has been identified and the Project Briefing Meeting was held in May 2010;
- The Draft Inception and Framework reports were submitted for review and feed back;
- Revised Inception Report to be submitted by consultant.

#### ***4.1.4. Set up Web-based Communication Infrastructure***

- A consultancy firm has been recruited and the Briefing Meeting was convened on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2010;
- The information technology audit questionnaire was finalised and submitted to Member States;
- Technical assistance visits to Member States has been undertaken;
- Inception Report has been revised and the Final Draft submitted to CARICOM Secretariat;
- Reports on the country visits have been completed and submitted to the CARICOM Secretariat for comments and feedback.

- Final Draft Inception Report to be submitted to Member States.

## **Result 4.2. Statistical Programming, production and dissemination of Key Economic Statistics Improved**

### **4. 2.1: CESAP Statistical Programming**

A consultancy firm has been recruited and the Briefing Meeting was convened on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010;

- The Inception Report and work plan has been accepted by the CARICOM secretariat within the context of the comments of the CARICOM Secretariat;
- A schedule has been designed with regards to mission visits to Member States and other relevant stakeholders;
- The Consultants are in attendance at the AGS and SCCS.

### **4.2.2. CESAP National Account/Short Term Economic Indicators: Improving Production and dissemination of national Accounts**

#### **Economic Statistics Expert Consultancy**

- The Economic Statistics Expert, Strengthening the capacity of Economic Statistics in CARIFORUM consultancy contract ended on April 30, 2010;
- The final outputs which included a CESAP were reviewed by The CARICOM Secretariat and were placed before the second meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on National Accounts/Short Term Economic Indicators/ International Trade in Services and Investment Statistics.

#### **Improvement in Basic data Production in National Accounts Consultancy**

- A consultancy firm has been recruited and the Briefing Meeting was convened on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 at the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana;

- The Inception Report has been revised and the Final Draft submitted to Member States;
- A schedule with visits to Members States was developed and reviewed by The Secretariat;
- The Statistical business register questionnaires were sent out to Member States for completion, ten Member States have returned questionnaires;
- Country visits to Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica has been completed;
- Consultant to submit findings on country assessment visits;
- Arrangements have been put in place relative to the conduct of a workshop on National accounts, which the consultant would facilitate.

**Technical Working Group on National Accounts/ Short Term Economic Indicators and Trade In Services and Investment Statistics**

- Activities of the Technical Working Group(TWG) continue and would be discussed at the SCCS meeting;
- Third Meeting of the TWG is scheduled for November 2010 during the National Accounts Workshop.

**International Comparison Programme (ICP)**

- The project provided support to the ICP meeting UNECLAC/CARICOM collaboration.

**Workshops and Seminars**

**The project provided support to the series of workshops and Seminar:**

- Seminar on the Implementation of SNA 2008 in collaboration with UNSD. The seminar was held in Antigua and Barbuda from June 14- 16 2010. The objectives this seminar were to initiate the formulation of an implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and support the

development of comparable economic statistics for the CARICOM countries;

- Workshop on the Compilation of International Trade in Services and National Accounts programme scheduled for November 22- 26 in the Bahamas.

## **CESAP Merchandise Trade**

### **Enhancement of Trade Information Systems Consultancy**

- Project was completed on 30 April 2010;
- The Final Report has been submitted.

### **Enhancement of Trade Information Systems Consultancy Phase 11**

- A consultant has been recruited and the Project Briefing Meeting was convened on 13 October 2010;
- Briefing Meeting notes have been submitted by consultant;
- The Notes have been reviewed by the CARICOM Secretariat.

### **Attachment Programme**

- The project supported a two-week attachment programme for two Staff Members from the Bahamas Statistical office. One week was spent at the CARICOM Secretariat and another was spent at the Central Statistics Office in Trinidad and Tobago;
- The Participants have submitted a report to the CARICOM Secretariat.

### **Technical Working group on Merchandise Trade Statistics**

- The second technical working group meeting is scheduled to take place in November 2010 during EUROTRACE training sessions;

- Activities of the TWG continue.

#### **Follow up workshop on Trade Data processing**

- The project provided support to a follow up workshop on Trade Data processing held in Saint. Lucia from March 8-10 2010. Twenty seven participants were funded from Member States and Associate Member and the CARICOM Secretariat. The main objectives of this workshop were, to follow-up to the one held in July 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago, to address problems faced by Member States in the implementation of the New EUROTRACE software, which has been installed in most Member States under the Project and to further improve the production and the dissemination of Merchandise Trade Statistics from the shared experiences and training received;

#### **Basic and Advanced Training in New EUROTRACE**

- The project supported Basic and Advanced training in New EUROTRACE Merchandise Trade data processing at EUROSTAT in Luxembourg. Four persons, three from Member States and one from CCS received training in introductory level NEW EUROTRACE Merchandise Trade Data processing from May 3- 7 2010. Four persons also received training in the Advanced level training; three from Member States and one CCS from June 7-11 2010;

#### **4.2.4: CESAP Trade in Services and Investment**

##### **Consultancy for Trade in Services and Investment Statistics**

- The consultancy to develop and implement CARIFORUM Economic Statistics Action Plan (CESAP) Trade in Services, commenced on April 1, 2010;
- The Briefing Meeting was convened in Barbados on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 during the second meeting of the TWG on National Accounts/ Short Term Economic Indicators/International Trade in Services and Investment Flows Statistics;



- The Inception Phase of this consultancy has been completed;
- The Inception Report has been submitted to Member States for review and feedback;
- Technical Assistance missions have been undertaken in five Member States;
- Work in progress on common guidelines and CESAP Trade in Services and Investment Flows Statistics.

### **Consultancy for study on Services Sectors**

- Tender dossier to be re- launched contingent on time and duration of project extension.

## **Result 4.3 Training Delivered and economic Statistics used to monitor Regional Integration Process**

### **4.3.1. Training and Workshops**

#### **Project Provided Support for participation in the series of Training and workshops:**

- A two- week workshop on International Classifications for Statistical and Labour Market Information was convened, in Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago from November 2-13, 2009. Forty four participants were trained. The objectives of the Seminar were to train one national specialist from each Caribbean National Statistical Office (NSO) in Member States/Associate Members in the use and maintenance of selected international classifications.
- The ESRI conference in California, scheduled for July11-16, 2010. The project is funding the participation of six persons, one from CCS and five from Member States in learning the experiences of GIS and best practices for CENSUS mapping and creating of dataset for 2010 Round of Censuses;

- A two-week Sampling Designs and Application Workshop in Antigua and Barbuda from 23 August- 3 September 2010. Twenty- one participants were trained. The objective of the Workshop was to strengthen the capacity of Statisticians of CARICOM in sampling techniques as it relates to Sampling of business establishments and households.
- A one-week Census Data Processing training Work shop in Saint. Lucia from 6-10 September 2010 in collaboration with Inter-American Development Bank. Four participants from the CARICOM Secretariat were funded by the project. The remaining participants were funded by IDB. The overall objective of the training was to ensure that each NSO will be able to develop and apply data capture techniques properly, to ensure that the data entry process could be completed in the shortest possible timeframe while providing data that are of a relatively high quality even prior to the application of further traditional editing programs ;
- A one- week workshop on Social, Gender and Environmental Statistics and Indicators in Paramaribo, Suriname, 13-17 September 2010. Thirty-five participants from Member States and Five participants from the CARICOM Secretariat were funded by the project. The workshop was aimed at enabling the compilation of harmonised and high quality statistics by countries in the area of Social/Gender and Environmental Statistics including the Caribbean Specific Indicators for the Millennium Development Goals (CSMDGs) that were approved at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD).

#### **4.3.2. Use of Economic Statistics to monitor Regional Integration**

- International Tender dossier has been launched for the purchase of information technology equipment both software and hardware for CCS as well as Member States;

## **2. Challenges in Implementation**

- Challenges with scheduling of technical mission visits to Member States as a result of numerous project initiatives being implemented concurrently and like wise Member States priority focus on executing activities for Population and Housing Census;
- Concentration of several activities in a short period has proven to be problematic, bearing in mind that the project was scheduled to end in December 2010.

## **3. Activities to be Implemented**

### **3.1. Inter- Regional Statistical Infrastructure Harmonised**

- Continuation of work on the Haiti/ Dominican Republic Consultancy;
- Finalisation of the Statistics Help Desk Facility;
- Continue to support activities to the harmonization of regional statistical infrastructure.

### **3. 2. Statistical Programming, production and dissemination of key Economic Statistics Improved**

- Continuation of in country assessments, mission visits and collaboration with relevant stakeholders and technical assistance for the various project initiatives for which consultants have been identified and work is currently in progress;

- Meetings of the Technical Working Groups for National Accounts and Trade-in-Services and Investment Statistics and Merchandise Trade scheduled for November and December 2010 respectively;
- Workshop on the Compilation of National Accounts and International Trade-in-Services and Investment flows Statistics, 22-26 November 2010.

### **3.3. Training Delivered and economic Statistics used to monitor Regional Integration Process**

- Follow up workshop on Census Data processing in collaboration with UNSD, scheduled for 6-11 December 2010.
- Basic and Advanced Training in EUROTRACE scheduled for 29 November –December 15 2010.

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