



# PRASC NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, no. 1, March 2017

Contact the PRASC team at [statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca)

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada



*The PRASC team is pleased to present the second edition of its semi-annual newsletter. This edition covers activities that took place between October 2016 and March 2017. If you wish to be added to the distribution list of the newsletter, please send an email to [statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca).*

## Drafting a Regional Quality Assurance Framework

Following a request from the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CCS), the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) supported the drafting of a CARICOM Regional Quality Assurance Framework (C-RQAF). The working meeting took place in St. Kitts and Nevis from December 5 to 9, 2016, and included 19 representatives from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), 3 representatives from regional organizations and 4 participants from Statistics Canada. The week-long meeting started with background information on quality assurance frameworks, an overview of the framework from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, a summary of previous quality assurance work completed by the CCS has already completed, and a group discussion on quality issues experienced in the NSOs. These experiences were used to help determine the C-RQAF topics, which were then organized into themes, enabling the creation of the document outline. The remainder of the workshop saw the participants finalize the draft version of the C-RQAF, which the CCS submitted to the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) for review. Once updated and approved, the C-RQAF will be taken to the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians for endorsement. As a follow-up to the workshop, all reference documents used for the meeting, as well as reference material supplied by participants, are now made available on CARICOM's website.

## National Accounts stakeholder meetings

The Statistical Institute of Belize established a National Accounts Advisory Committee (NAAC), whose first meeting took place at the Central Bank in February 2017. Committee members consisted of stakeholder ministries, members of the private sector and academia. The meeting gave attendees the opportunity to discuss ways to find efficiencies and synergies within the National Statistical System and identify program priorities. The Central Statistical Office of Saint Lucia also held its first-ever NAAC meeting in March 2017 with its stakeholders. A common topic of discussion in both meetings was the statistical offices' need to acquire more administrative data from its partners. Both countries look forward to the second meeting, which will take place later this calendar year.



*Group picture at the drafting of the C-RQAF, St. Kitts and Nevis, December 2016. Photo: Statistics Canada.*

## Data Analysis

The second Data Analysis Workshop was held in Barbados from November 21 to 24, 2017. Participants included representatives from the NSOs of Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Suriname, as well as from the CCS and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). There was a follow-up mission to the first workshop in Ottawa with St. Vincent and the Grenadines (in March 2016) that focused on a gender-based analysis report, as well as another mission in Guyana in March 2017 to work on a census summary analytical report.

## Media workshop

A regional workshop on media relations was held in Kingston (Jamaica) from February 28 to March 2, 2017, where participants learned the principles of media relations and how to develop key messages and other material that will help them respond to media about data releases. Participants also practiced giving media interviews through video-recorded interview simulations.

There were 12 participants from Belize, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission (OECS). The workshop was delivered in collaboration with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, with whom PRASC is working to build training capacity in this area.



Jamaica, February 2017  
Photo: Carole Jean-Marie, Statistics Canada.

## Working with the OECS on advocacy

PRASC and the OECS Commission have joined forces to reach business and household survey respondents in a way that is engaging: it has produced two videos intended to improve awareness about the importance and benefits of their participation in surveys. These new advocacy tools can be used to support statistical activities and other events to promote statistics. The videos are available in English, Creole and Spanish (household version only). Other versions are also available that serve as a wider use of this tool: an audio-only version for radio broadcasting and an animation-only version to allow for customization of the script/audio. The videos are available on OECS TV or through the OECS Commission directly.

## Work on supply and use tables

A mission was held in Saint Lucia to continue working on the development and compilation of supply and use tables. Once completed, the 2015 supply and use tables will be important for benchmarking the GDP release and other statistical products.

## Information Management Workshop

A subregional workshop on Information Management (IM) was held the last week of March in Barbados. The interactive workshop's IM-related topics included documentation, email management, project and file organization, file management and version control, and backup strategies. Numerous best practices were shared during group discussions on the challenges encountered in the NSOs. The workshop culminated with participants prioritizing challenges faced in their offices and developing an IM implementation plan for their NSO.

## Follow-ups on CAPI and demography

The Department of Statistics of the Bahamas conducted a field test of e-collection during the November Labour Force Survey. PRASC provided support by setting up tablets and making final revisions to the questionnaire, as well as providing assistance in the field to the interviewers on the use of the tablets.

A follow-up mission was held in Montserrat in March 2017 to finalize the strategy on producing demographic estimates. Staff from the Statistical Department simulated a production cycle that included steps from validating the inputs to producing the estimates.

## Working on media relations with the Bahamas

As the Department of Statistics of the Bahamas (DOS) faced difficult questions from the media last year on one of their data releases, the DOS called on the PRASC for assistance. In March 2017, 14 staff were provided with hands-on training on how to write a news release that tells a story about statistics, as well as how to put data in context to help the public get the most out of a release. The staff also received hands-on training on media relations to learn how to develop key messages, media lines, and questions and answers, as well as give media interviews.

## Follow PRASC on

You can now follow more news from PRASC on LinkedIn. If you are not already part of our PRASC group, please join us! Go to <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/PRASC-Project-Regional-Advancement-Statistics-8532414/about> to register.