



The PRASC team is pleased to present its semi-annual newsletter. This edition covers activities that took place between October 2017 and March 2018. If you wish to be added to the distribution list, please send an email to [statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca).

## Media relations training

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and Statistics Canada jointly delivered a second regional media relations workshop in Kingston, Jamaica from February 20 to February 22, 2018. There were 14 participants from the national statistical offices (NSOs) and the national statistical systems of Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica. The objective was to provide spokespersons with techniques to conduct successful media interviews. The workshop was mostly led by STATIN in a train-the-trainer objective to enhance south-south co-operation.



Jamaica, February 2018  
Photo: Alexandre Goulet, Statistics Canada



Information Management Workshop, Guyana, February 2018  
Photo: Chantal Vaillancourt, Statistics Canada

## Information management

A second subregional workshop on information management (IM) was held during the last week of January in Guyana with participants from Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname, in which the NSOs produced an IM implementation plan. All workshop material has been posted on the CARICOM website (<http://www.caricomstats.org/prascmtgs.html>). As a follow-up to the first workshop, there was a mission in the Bahamas to help with developing and implementing a new directory structure for the NSO.

## Caribbean Statistics Day

In October 2017, the PRASC teamed up with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission for Caribbean Statistics Day to engage with students in Saint Lucia and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The PRASC will be collaborating with the region again for Caribbean Statistics Day 2018. We look forward to advocating and celebrating statistics with you!

## Work with St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Following a Business Register (BR) development mission in the fall of 2017, a fully functional BR was developed in Microsoft Excel, which includes lookup tables and business rules. In 2018, another mission will take place to train the NSO on how to maintain the BR and how to use it.

In the fall of 2017, a mission took place to focus on the communications for the upcoming enhanced country poverty assessment (ECPA). A strategy and various communication materials were developed for the first component (Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) and Household Budget Survey (HBS)). The PRASC will continue to work with St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the communications for the other ECPA components.

## Work on websites

PRASC is working with the national statistical offices of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to develop (or modernize) the NSO website. This will provide more visibility and access to statistical information. These websites should be launched in the coming months, and work will continue over the next few years on the development of additional modules and features to further enhance visibility and user experience. In the coming year, PRASC will also be working on websites with other countries, as well as the CCS.

## Sprint meeting on supply and use tables

One of the PRASC's most important goals is the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) standard within the region. To this end, supply and use tables (SUTs) are being compiled across most member states. SUTs also serve as a coordinating tool within the national accounts program in each of the countries. They can provide the countries with a new benchmark for the 2008 SNA standard measures of GDP and related macroeconomic measures of investment, household spending, output and trade. In addition, the SUTs will help the national accounts program identify and develop the data sources that are generally required, which can be used to build or strengthen national account products such as quarterly GDP-E, tourism satellite accounts, measures of investment and capital stock.

Ten countries participated in a sprint-type event in Ottawa in January 2018. The objective was for national accounts experts to either move the SUT projects forward where they had already been initiated (such as in Belize and Saint Lucia) or initiate SUT projects in collaboration with Caribbean experts. SUT compilation work was done, using available published data and innovative methods over a period of three days. The teams were placed within an environment that encouraged innovation and where they could solely focus on the task at hand. Follow-up activities are planned to achieve fully compiled and balanced SUTs for these countries.



*Conclusion of the Sprint meeting on SUT  
Ottawa, Canada, January 2018  
Photo: Claudio Perez, Statistics Canada*

## Work with Montserrat

The Statistics Department of Montserrat (SDM) participated in a four-day training session on national accounts in January 2018. It covered key SNA concepts such as production, consumption, stocks and flows, as well as the three approaches to GDP compilation (production, expenditure and income). Finally, the concepts extended to the current and capital accounts.

In February, three participants from the SDM visited Ottawa to work on population estimates and 2011 Census data analysis. The population estimates for 2017 were finalized, and a production calendar and user guide were drafted. For data analysis, tables and charts were produced, and key messages were identified. Work will continue virtually to produce the report.

## Upcoming workshops

The PRASC will be delivering a few regional workshops this year, some of which will be conducted in collaboration with other international development partners. Additional details on census management and collection, anonymization, leadership, and media relations workshops will be available at a later date.

## Virtual work

The PRASC started to work virtually on the Household Budget Survey/Survey of Living Conditions with Guyana. The first steps are to review the questionnaire and sampling. There were also discussions with Grenada about a rotation strategy to select their quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample.

## 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.