

# Statistical work of the United Nations Regional Commissions

## Main activities in 2010-2011 and priorities for 2012-2013

### ECLAC - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

#### Statistical activities in 2010-2011

In the recent years, ECLAC has undertaken a series of activities to reduce missing information and discrepancies in the **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)** Data between national and international sources, and to improve the coordination among national agencies. In 2010-2011, four seminars were held to achieve this objective, two of which focused on specific MDG themes, health and Information and Communication Technology.

An important priority of work is to promote the new **National Accounts recommendations** in the region to support countries in improving their data quality and coverage. This was done through technical assistance missions but also through the organization of workshops and seminars, and in the traditional annual seminars on National Accounts. ECLAC supported the preparation of two technical reports – on informal sector and on the treatment of financial intermediations – that were produced with input from various countries. ECLAC also participated in activities regarding **satellite accounts on health**, jointly with countries and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Work also continued in the promotion of the integration of ethnic and racial dimensions in health and vital statistics, jointly with PAHO.

As the regional coordination agency of the **International Comparison Programme (ICP)**, ECLAC undertook activities aiming at planning and implementing the 2011 Round of the Programme in the region. The full incorporation of the Central America and Caribbean countries to the project is a major advance as compared with previous rounds. Several countries were also assisted in updating the base year of their **Consumer Price Indices'** and in further international harmonization of these indices.

Support provided to **household survey** teams of many countries has improved the quality of existing surveys

and also facilitated the implementation of new surveys. This area includes technical assistance missions and training courses. ECLAC and the World Bank began activities aimed at harmonizing the definitions of several variables derived from the household surveys and included in different data bases related to income.

As usually, annual estimates of **income poverty incidence** were produced in 2010 and 2011 applying updated methodology and parameters. Initial steps were also taken towards adopting the multidimensional approach for poverty measurement. Two seminars were organized together with the Ministry of Planning of Chile, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) from the University of Oxford and one Chilean NGO. Work continued concerning the production and use of subjective indicators for social analysis such as those on perception of the state. A seminar on this theme was also organized.

ECLAC **information portal**, CEPALSTAT, contains a series of thematic databases covering a variety of issues (social, national accounts, the environment, gender affairs, productive activities, and external trade, among others), which are updated regularly. During the last two years, data consistency of CEPALSTAT was enhanced by reducing duplication of statistical series contained in different individual bases, by including new series and by providing new facilities for accessing data.

With the support of United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), **environmental indicators** are being developed and adapted considering the region's statistical development. A specific project on **satellite accounts and indicators on water** began by the end of 2010.

ECLAC participated in supporting the planning of **the 2010 Population Census** round, together with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the SCA Working Group on Census, through technical assistance, training courses, seminars and

documentation. New assistance was provided to countries in the preparation of official population projections.

Information for international summits is maintained in an ECLAC information portal called CELADE. These include an Action Plan of the International Conference on Population and Development, **System of Indicators of Population** and indigenous people and the Regional System of Indicators on Ageing.

ECLAC maintains the **Latin American and Caribbean Gender Observatory**, which includes information on gender inequalities, physical autonomy of women, and women's participation in the public sphere. A data base of **methodologies of Time Use Surveys** carried out in the region is also maintained. Technical assistance was provided to countries on gender statistics, including for the preparation of indicators, the design of questionnaires in household surveys regarding gender issues and the improvement of administrative registers on violence.

### **Main priorities for 2012-2013**

The main priorities of the statistical work of ECLAC in 2012-2013 will continue to be to support the countries of the region in the following areas:

- Finalize the ICP programme in the region
- Update the methodology of the income poverty measure and began to estimate poverty indicators on the basis of this new criteria. Promote comparability of national estimates
- Initiate activities in the field of multidimensional poverty
- Improve CEPALSTAT facilities
- Provide support to countries in their efforts to update the National Accounts' base years and in introducing the new 2008 recommendations
- Support countries in the implementation of international classifications
- Support countries to improve environment statistics, prioritizing water statistics and accounts

## **ESCAP - The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **Statistical activities in 2010-2011**

The 67th session of the Commission of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, adopted **four statistics-related resolutions** in 2011, demonstrating the commitment of member States to promoting statistical development.

Over the last year, the secretariat has strived to capitalize on the momentum generated by the passage of the new resolutions to continue pursuing a number of important regional initiatives under the guidance of the Committee on Statistics and its Bureau. The priority areas include economic statistics, social statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, modernization of statistical information systems, as well as regional strategy for improving statistical training.

The secretariat has facilitated the establishment of a range of steering, advisory and working groups, which are comprised of national and international experts and chaired or co-chaired by national experts. Their task is to oversee or lead the development and implementation of long-term regional plans to address the priority areas of official statistics mentioned above. In addition to effectively **servicing important advisory or technical groups**, the secretariat has also made significant contributions to the substantive development of the regional strategies and plans.

In particular, the secretariat has made further progress in raising awareness of the urgent need to improve **civil registration and vital statistics** across countries in the region. In implementing Commission resolution 67/12, the secretariat has been working closely with other development partners to organize a high-level regional meeting in December 2012. The meeting aims to secure commitment of key stakeholders to the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics by engaging decision makers from national statistical organizations, civil registration offices, ministries of health, and national and international non-governmental actors.

Indeed, the secretariat collaborates with over 20 international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral partners through the newly established regional

partnership, **Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific**. The Partnership works to enhance the combined impact of coordinated statistical activities. The Partnership aligns its objectives with the strategic direction and priorities of the Committee on Statistics and actively supports the various regional initiatives.

As a result of the Partnership, PARIS21 has started producing **an annual special Partner Report on Support to Statistics in Asia and the Pacific**, which informs both the Partnership and the Committee on Statistics on planned and ongoing initiatives among key development partners in the region.

### **Main priorities for 2012-2013**

The third session of the Committee on Statistics has been scheduled to take place from 12 to 14 of December 2012. The Committee is expected to review and possibly endorse the various regional strategies/plans currently being developed in response to other emerging needs and priorities.

The strategies consider, for example, how to foster close cooperation among countries to support the **modernization of statistical information systems**; the development of basic **environment statistics**; the challenges of **measuring wellbeing** and formulating the **beyond 2015 development indicators** framework.

The Committee also plans to review and advice on the secretariat's on-going initiative to further promote measurement development and data improvement in the areas of **gender statistics, disability statistics and statistics on informal sector and informal employment**.

Since the last Commission session, we have also made continuing efforts to help increase awareness and understanding of national and regional development trends and challenges among key partners of the key national and regional.

Of particular relevance are the analyses on **MDG progress and remaining gaps** and disparities, both between and within countries, which draw the attention of policy-makers to what is required for achieving the MDGs. The Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011, along with its free online database, presents **comparable development indicators** and trends analyses, and has been well-received by many national and international

development partners and frequently quoted in national and regional media.

**The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)**, which supports the statistics subprogramme, plays an instrumental role in statistical capacity development in the region. Over a year of unusual challenges during post-Tsunami reconstruction in Japan, with unwavering support from the Host Government, SIAP continued to provide critical statistical training to well over 400 official statisticians across the region.

While acknowledging the institute's long-standing contribution to statistics development in the region, the Governing Council of SIAP at its 7th session also highlighted the urgent need to secure the financial viability of the Institute as well as the importance for repositioning the Institute in response to new emerging training needs in the region. The on-going regional initiatives led by the Committee on Statistics, including the process led by the Indian Chief Statistics to develop a strategy for improving coordinating of statistical training the region, provide important opportunities for further strengthening SIAP's role and enhancing the coherence of the statistics subprogramme.

## **ESCWA – the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

### **Statistical activities in 2010-2011**

The statistical work of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) is steered by the Statistical Committee of UN-ESCWA and implemented by the Statistics Division. The Statistical Committee holds its biennial sessions in October of even years with meetings of the Bureau in the interim. A less formal meeting in the form of the Working Group of the Statistical Committee takes place every February about 3 weeks prior to the UN Statistical Commission.

With respect to focus on subject matter areas the statistical activities of ESCWA are concentrated around the following:

#### **National Accounts**

- Implementation of SNA 2008 – a pilot project involves 4 countries, with a continued

assistance to less advanced countries, in order to ensure their starting position

- Measuring informal economy
- Interregional transfer accounts – a pilot project involving 2-3 countries

#### Economic statistics

- International Comparison Programme for the Western Asia region
- Industry statistics
- Trade statistics, with a focus on building capacity in statistics on trade in services
- Price statistics (CPI)
- Agriculture and rural development statistics
- Energy statistics and balances
- Environment statistics and environment accounting (including SEEA framework for the region).

#### Demographic and social statistics

- Population and vital statistics aimed at improved population estimates by member countries
- Population and housing censuses, including a Task Force on censuses – the work involves sources and methodologies, as well as the use of census data
- Migration statistics with respect to specific regional needs
- Labour statistics development
- Collection and dissemination of social indicators
- Gender statistics – capacity development, collection, analysis and dissemination

#### Cross cutting areas of official statistics

- Statistical metadata
- Use of administrative registers and records for official statistics
- Geographical information systems and geospatial information management
- Implementation of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- Building institutional frameworks for official statistics
- Capacity development and data work on development indicators
- New approaches to measuring societal progress

More information about ESCWA’s statistical activities is available at:

Main page: [www.escwa-stat.org](http://www.escwa-stat.org)

ESCWA Statistics e-Publications Portal: [data.escwa-stat.org](http://data.escwa-stat.org)

Demographic and social statistics main page: [social.escwa-stat.org](http://social.escwa-stat.org)

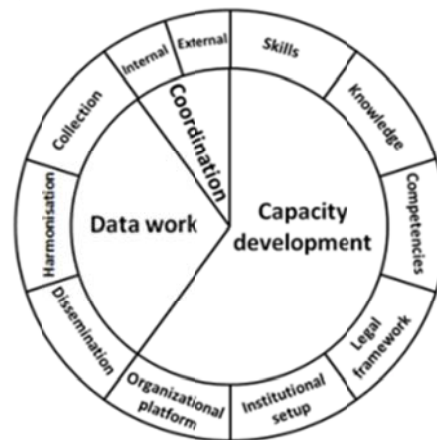
Economic and sectoral statistics main page: [economic.escwa-stat.org](http://economic.escwa-stat.org)

Virtual Library: [library.escwa-stat.org](http://library.escwa-stat.org)

#### Main priorities for 2012-2013

The statistical work of ESCWA focuses on three objectives illustrated by the following graph.

Graph 1. The areas of ESCWA statistical work



The first objective is **capacity development** in the field of official statistics, covering the following six components:

- Skills – this involves training and learning activities aimed at upgrading professional skills of statisticians
- Knowledge – this involves acquisition and exchange of knowledge and experience on particular topics of interest, including exchange and sharing of experience and expertise and advisory services
- Competencies –this is related to human resources management in statistical institutions in the region, including ESCWA Statistics Division, as well as national statistical offices
- Legal framework – this is related to a systematic promotion of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics aimed at improving statistical legislation in ESCWA countries

- Institutional setup – this involves building national statistical systems, as well as the regional statistical system
- Organizational platform – this is related to strengthening the central role of national statistical offices within national statistical systems and the ownership of the ESCWA Statistical Committee by member countries

To achieve these objectives ESCWA aims at becoming the center of expertise in relevant statistical areas, creating **networks of experts**, promoting implementation of **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, bringing a regional approach to implementing international statistical standards, resource mobilization and strengthening the steering role of its Statistical Committee.

The **data related work** aims at improving quality and consistency of data on ESCWA member countries, and it comprises the following three components:

- Data collection – aims at satisfying the data needs of ESCWA itself with respect to studies, policy advice and publications
- Harmonization of statistical data –includes resolution of pertaining discrepancies between national and international data about the region
- Dissemination – aims at promoting use of official statistics in decision making, and easier access to statistical information, in particular transition to e-publishing (see <http://data.escwa-stat.org>).

To achieve these objectives ESCWA implementing a **quality framework**, ensuring relevance of data in discussion with sectoral committees and policy making organs, ensuring higher consistency of statistics disseminated by UN-ESCWA and facilitating and broadening access to data through e-publishing.

The third objective is **coordination of statistical activities**. This aims at avoiding duplications and inconsistencies, and in collectively covering some of the existing gaps without a need to increase resources:

- Internal coordination of statistical activities of various ESCWA divisions under the responsibility of the Statistics Division
- Regional coordination with regional and international partners

- National coordination – ESCWA promotes the coordination role of national statistical offices within statistical systems of its member countries

To achieve this objective ESCWA has put in place a framework for cross-sectoral coordination of statistical activities within the Secretariat, pursuing coordination efforts through the Task Force on Statistical Coordination for Arab States (in the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism – RCM), coordination of regional positions on global issues, and promoting the central coordination role of national statistical offices through its advisory services.

## ECA – the Economic Commission for Africa<sup>1</sup>

### Statistical activities in 2010-2011

The objective of ECA work in statistics is to improve the production, dissemination and use of key demographic, social, economic and environmental statistics, including the MDG indicators, in accordance with internationally-agreed standards and best practices. Accordingly, the Commission's work during the reporting period was articulated around the following priorities:

- Promoting, coordinating, and advocating for statistical activities in Africa
- Building a data hub at ECA for the provision of development data on Africa
- Implementing the standard international System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa
- Supporting statistical training programmes
- Establishing a regional programme for population and housing censuses in line with internationally-adopted cycles
- Improving the status of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in Africa
- Providing technical assistance in various areas of statistics

In this regard, the **sixth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development** was organized in November

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<sup>1</sup> Information summarized from the Economic Commission for Africa Annual Report 2011

2010 in Cairo, Egypt on the theme “Data Analysis and Use in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses”. The Symposium was attended by 350 participants from national statistical offices, African organizations, international organizations, and educational and research institutions. The outcome of the symposium addressed a number of key issues, including the role of statistical training institutions in enhancing the capacity of stakeholders in census data analysis; revival of the African Statistical Association; **implementation of the International Comparison Programme (ICPAfrica)**; capacity reinforcement of countries in post-enumeration surveys, sharing household survey data on African countries; and harmonization of population projections in intercensal periods.

The **fifth meeting of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC)** was held to discuss mechanisms for achieving greater synergy among regional institutions, and coordinating statistical programmes with a view to enhancing and sustaining the effectiveness of statistical support to African countries. A **Ministerial Conference** held in April 2010 in Lilongwe, Malawi considered and endorsed the progress report on implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). It also discussed preparation for the sixth ASCC and the initiative to establish AfricaInfo Database. Other meetings held during the period included the first **ICP-Africa governing board** meeting; first meeting of the **African national statistical associations**; and meeting of the **African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources**.

One of the major advocacy tools used to raise awareness on the importance of statistics in the development of African countries is **the African Statistics Day** which is celebrated every year on 18 November. In 2010, the World Statistics Day was celebrated for the first time on 20 October 2010 under the theme “Celebrating the Many Achievements in Statistics: Service, Professionalism, and Integrity”.

To facilitate production and use of harmonized data series, **a repository of data from African countries was established** under the aegis of the ASCC. The repository has data aggregated at the continental, subregional, and national levels. Similarly, based on the joint data collection mechanism established by ECA, AfDB and AUC, the second edition of the joint

African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB) was produced in 2010 as a leading source of statistical information on Africa. The joint data collection and publication mechanism has significantly reduced the burden on countries in terms of data reporting as they now report once to the joint effort, rather than separately to the three institutions.

In 2010, efforts were also pursued to update and improve the **ECA statistical database (StatBase)** as the corporate platform for statistical data management and dissemination. Enhancements included improvements to the retrieval interface and data reporting, allowing more flexible downloading of bulk data and the embedding of Google mapping functionalities for retrieved data. ECA also maintains a free online mirror of the African Integrated Census Microdata at: <http://ecastats.uneca.org/aicmd/>.

In 2010, ECA continued to promote the implementation of the global methodological standard for national accounting, the SNA, and contributed to the implementation strategy for the **2008 SNA** in Africa through a number of activities. An expert group meeting on the harmonization of national accounts was organized at Port Louis, Mauritius in November 2010 to review the draft implementation guide on the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa.

The work on population and housing censuses continued to focus on advocating for the participation of all African countries in **the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses**. In a survey twenty five ECA member States confirmed that they have conducted a census in this round, constituting a 47 per cent implementation rate. In terms of population, the censuses so far undertaken cover about 60 per cent. If the trend continues, the participation of African countries in the 2010 round will be better than during the 2000 round when only 37 countries undertook a census.

Efforts to advance the **development of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)** systems in Africa received a significant boost with the convening of the first-ever Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in August 2010.

An important part of the work in the area of statistics is to assist African countries in building and improving their statistical capacity by organizing seminars and

workshops, providing advisory services, promoting the implementation of international standards and recommendations, and transmitting best practices. In 2010, technical assistance was provided to several countries upon request in various areas of statistics, including **prices statistics, trade statistics, education, health, agriculture, trade, gender, CRVS, and database management**, among others.

Other capacity-building activities included, for example, a workshop on the “**Organization and management of national statistical systems**” held in October 2010 in Dakar, Senegal; and a workshop on the **informal sector, household surveys and labour statistics** in Bamako, Mali in November 2010 jointly organized with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank.

A meeting to review and improve a draft **manual** prepared by the ECA secretariat on how to derive **MDG indicators** from censuses, surveys and administrative records was organized in collaboration with AfDB in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2010. ECA also collaborated with InWEnt Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics of Germany to organize a meeting on climate change measurement in October 2010. The meeting underscored the role of information and data exchange among stakeholders in addressing **climate change** in Africa.

### **Main priorities for 2012-2013**

**Capacity development** in 2011 and beyond will consist of workshops on:

- Environment statistics, agricultural statistics and climate change, jointly with the United Nations environment programme
- Basic economic statistics and economic classifications in support of the 1993 SNA
- Operational planning and reporting
- Gender statistics
- “Reference Regional Strategic Framework on Statistical Development in Africa”
- How to derive data on the MDGs from population censuses and surveys

Furthermore, **technical assistance** missions will be undertaken to member States on several topics, such as implementation of the 2008 SNA; environment statistics; needs assessment of African statistical

training centers; major data management platforms; statistical data management and geo-information; census data processing; and gender statistics.

Another priority activity for technical cooperation in 2011 is implementation of the interregional project on **measurement of the informal sector** under the seventh tranche of UN Development Account involving all five Regional Commissions.

At the same time, given the ongoing efforts to strengthen the integration process in the region, it is vital to make **progress in harmonizing data**. Cooperation has become increasingly important in light of the growing number of international organizations working in Africa. ECA work in this area promotes collaboration, particularly in the area of standards development, by organizing meetings and undertaking joint advocacy on the critical role of statistics in evidence-based policymaking.

## **ECE - Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Statistical activities in 2010-2011**

Coordinating international statistical work in the UNECE region is a key task of the Conference. Two seminars were organized in June 2011. The first one on **organization of data collection and sharing** has led to a follow-up seminar on New Frontiers for Statistical Data Collection in October 2012. The second seminar on **measuring human capital** launched a stock-taking report on what has been done so far in this complex, yet crucial, area.

**The Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics** was updated to reflect the current international recommendations and best practice in household income measurement. The Task Force worked between 2009 and 2011, and was led by Australia. The Handbook is a consolidated reference for the production, dissemination and analysis of income distribution statistics, and important for the analysis of economic and social wellbeing.

In 2011, a Group of Experts finalized the Guide on **The Impact of Globalization on National Accounts** as a result of the cooperation of leading statisticians, Eurostat, OECD, IMF, ECB, the World Trade Organization and the World Tourism Organization. The Netherlands chaired the Group as they worked

between 2007 and 2011. This publication provides guidance on how to deal with the impact of globalization in compiling the national accounts.

To achieve internationally comparable measurement of the **health status of population**, a common survey instrument was developed by a Task Force, jointly with Eurostat and the World Health Organization.

**Principles and framework for an international classification of crimes** for statistical purposes was finalized in 2011 by a joint Task Force with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. These principles are important for improving the international comparability of crime statistics, which is a challenge due to differences in legislation and justice systems of countries.

A Task Force prepared a report on **International Migration Estimates Using Different Length of Stay Definitions**. The report assesses the possible consequences of the different approaches on migration estimates

In addition, two new publications were prepared in support of migration statistics: **A Practical Guide for Countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia on Migration Statistics**, jointly with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and a **Review of Sources and Quality of Statistics on International Migration**. This is also in response to a High-level Dialogue on International Migration at the UN General Assembly which concluded that international migration could play an important role in national development, if supported by the right strategies.

The Conference endorsed the **vision of the High-Level Group on Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics** in June 2011. Modernization of statistical production was also the topic of two specialized publications: general guidelines on **Using Administrative and Secondary Sources for Official Statistics** and **Principles and Guidelines on Building Multilingual Applications for Official Statistics** were developed to enable international exchange of software as a tool for global standardisation.

In order to improve the usefulness of economic statistics for economic policy making and analysis, a **Practical Guide to Seasonal Adjustment** was published in a joint effort with the World Bank and Turkey, and is of particular interest for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

**Guidance on the Measurement of Different Emerging Forms of Households and Families** was published in response to the major changes in family formation, dissolution and reconstitution during the last decade. These emerging forms of families pose challenges to the statisticians.

**Part 3 - A Guide to Communicating with the Media** was added to the series of **Making Data Meaningful** guides. It helps to find ways to get messages across effectively. The popular **UNECE Countries in Figures 2011** publication was released with the latest social and economic profiles of 56 UNECE countries.

In 2010-2011, UNECE held 23 **Capacity Building Workshops** in a number of areas, such as the 2008 System of National Accounts, Consumer Price Indices, Seasonal Adjustment, MDG indicators, population and housing censuses, gender statistics, migration statistics and environment.

Two **Global Assessments** of national statistical systems were carried out in 2011 jointly with Eurostat and EFTA in Kyrgyz Republic and Ukraine. Global Assessments are also planned for Georgia, Belarus, Moldova and Tajikistan. The process supports development of national statistics and informs international donors of countries' challenges, while it promotes compliance with the Fundamental Principles and other international standards.

The **UNECE on-line Statistical Database** offers a range of statistics on UNECE countries via English and Russian interfaces. It provides data with gender breakdown. It also offers a source for preparing brief articles on economic and social development in the UNECE region for the UNECE Weekly. In 2011, a **Regional Millennium Development Goals Database** covering all eight MDG goals was launched.

### **Main priorities for 2012-2013**

The objective will be to further improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the ECE region. **Cooperation** with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the annual plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians and in the various joint meetings and Task Forces.



ECE will promote the implementation of the **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics** within the international statistical community and provide advice to countries on institutional frameworks of official statistics by carrying out **global assessments** of statistical systems with Eurostat and EFTA.

Access to relevant, timely and user-friendly data of ECE countries will be provided via the **UNECE Statistical Database**.

ECE will focus on a selected number of subject areas in the **methodological work**, in particular those where ECE can provide an added value and complement the work of others, such as **globalization, measurement of wellbeing and social progress, population censuses, sustainable development and modernizing statistical production**. The work will concentrate on developing and updating methodological guidelines and leading practices.

In 2011, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians carried out in-depth reviews of education statistics, global manufacturing and household survey methods to identify possible gaps and the need for international work in these areas. As a result, a **Task Force on Global Production** was established to develop practical guidance on issues that need further attention after publishing the Guide on the Impact of Globalization.

A **Task Force on Statistical Business Registers (SBR)** was launched to consider possibilities of streamlining statistical production using the SBR and to develop good practices guidelines.

A **Task Force on Climate Change Related Statistics** started its work to identify the scope of this area and practical steps for meeting statistical user needs related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The aim is also to explore the needs of the greenhouse gas emission inventory producers for source data from national statistical systems.

An **Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment** was set up to follow up on the issues identified in the report on Potential Indicators for Measurement of Quality of Employment and to develop operational definitions and guidelines.

**Capacity building activities** will focus on key priorities, reflecting the needs of countries. They will focus on areas where United Nations standards exist, such as population censuses, indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals, national accounts, environmental statistics, prices, gender disaggregated statistics, modernizing statistical production and statistical data dissemination.