

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC35821

Project Name	Enhancing Coherence and Integration of Economic and Social Statistics in Support of the Implementation of 2008 SNA
Region	OTHER
Country	World
Sector(s)	General public administration sector (100%)
Theme(s)	Economic statistics, modeling and forecasting (40%), Other public sector governance (30%), Managing for development results (30%)
Lending Instrument	IPF
Project ID	P157752
Borrower Name	UNECE
Implementing Agency	The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	18-May-2016
Estimated Date of Approval	25-May-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

At its 40th session in 2009 the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) supported the Global Implementation Strategy for the 2008 SNA proposed by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), and requested to pay particular attention to improving basic economic statistics and to the need for consistency and harmonization across sectoral statistics from other macroeconomic frameworks. The UNSC recognized the role of UN regional commissions in facilitating coordination and regional cooperation towards the implementation of 2008 SNA* Statistical Commission. Report on the fortieth session (24 to 27 February 2009). Available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/Report-English.pdf>. Following the decision of the UNSC, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) requested that regional commissions develop regional implementation plans and establish Steering Groups to guide and coordinate activities.

On this background, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has actively been working to support the implementation of 2008 SNA and supporting official statistics in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) since 2010.

As a follow-up to the request of the UNSC, UNECE developed a regional plan for implementation of 2008 SNA in close cooperation with EECCA and South-East European countries. The regional implementation plan follows the global strategy adopted by the UNSC and includes a set of detailed recommendations for 2008 SNA implementation.

The regional implementation plan has been discussed and agreed at special sessions in conjunction with the regular biennial Expert Group meetings on national accounts in Geneva, organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD. As part of the process, all participating countries have been asked to develop and periodically update national implementation.

* Statistical Commission. Report on the fortieth session (24 to 27 February 2009). Available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/Report-English.pdf>

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Coherent, timely and internationally comparable socio-economic statistics are crucial for the monitoring of social and economic progress of a country. Official statistics are essential tools for evidence-based policy making: They ensure transparency and accountability in the process of economic and social reforms, and enable decision makers to formulate policies and monitor and evaluate their deliveries. Over the last decade, national statistical offices of emerging economies in the EECCA region have made progress in producing reliable social and economic statistics. However, besides the necessity to migrate from the former SNA to the new standard (2008 SNA), recent global assessments of national statistical systems in the region identified outstanding issues where improvement is needed to enhance the coherence and exhaustiveness of important statistics supporting the compilation of national accounts. Furthermore, in some cases, available statistical information from traditional economic sources (e.g. business surveys) was not systematically cross-checked and validated with other reliable data sources like household budget surveys, migration statistics or administrative data, thereby missing the opportunity to improve the quality of national accounts aggregates.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

Not applicable.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

In line with the Bank policy and strategy to identify the key areas in which support can best assist a country in achieving sustainable development and eliminating extreme poverty, the project aims to help countries to improve their capacity to produce consistent and coherent socio-economic statistics and ultimately to properly implement the 2008 SNA across the 12 EECCA countries and Mongolia, in order to advance the data foundation for measuring sustainable development, and to support evidence based policymaking and effective monitoring. Specific objectives include:

- (€ Further development and enhancement of national plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. Improved availability and quality of statistics in priority areas identified in the regional and national implementation plans;
- (€ Improvement of price statistics for inflation measurement and for compiling national accounts aggregates at constant prices;
- (€ Improvement of statistical business registers, in particular concerning the quality and the coverage of national statistical business registers;
- (€ Improvement of statistics on the informal sector and remittances through extended use of household surveys, with the final aim to improve the coverage and exhaustiveness of national accounts statistics.

Key Results

The proposed project activities and resulting knowledge will help increase statistical capacity in the EECCA region and in Mongolia. The key results of the project can be summarized as follows:

- Increased capacity to produce timelier, relevant, and comprehensive national accounts, price statistics and indices, and statistical business registers, and strengthening the NSOs' regular activities in official statistics to meet the data demands arising from monitoring the SDGs of the post-2015 development agenda;
- Improvements of the coherence between National Accounts, Balance of Payment, Government Finance Statistics and Trade Statistics;
- Operational guidelines and training materials in Russian and English.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The proposed ECASTAT project will build on the activities and progress achieved so far in the work to support implementation of 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics in the EECCA region.

The project will have the following four key activities, from 2017 to 2020:

1. Participation of experts focusing on underrepresented EECCA countries in the international statistical Expert Group meetings in Geneva;
2. Organization of regional workshops for experts from the EECCA countries;
3. Development of statistical methods/tools for integrating migration in household surveys;
4. Development of training materials.

The project activities will involve participation of experts particularly from underrepresented EECCA countries in the regular biennial Expert Group meetings that UNECE are organizing in cooperation with other international organizations. This includes the Expert Groups on national accounts, consumer price indices and business registers. The Expert Groups discuss a wide range of methodological issues in the respective areas with focus on practical implementation of international standards and recommendations and sharing of best practices.

The project will build on existing UNECE programs to support the implementation of 2008 SNA and supporting statistics in the region, as well as the global assessments of national statistical systems. It will draw on established partnerships with national and international statistical agencies involved in statistical capacity building activities in the region, and in particular, depending on the modules, the World Bank (WB), UNESCAP, IMF, Eurostat, OECD, EFTA, ILO, ROSSTAT, CIS-STAT and other relevant multilateral and bilateral partner organizations.

Thus the project will avoid overlap and duplications and build on synergies with existing and planned capacity building activities in the EECCA region. Coordination will be ensured through the UNECE Steering Group on National Accounts. To ensure the effective implementation of the project, activities will encourage the exchange of national good practices, undertake benchmark studies and stimulate the establishment of an active network of experts from the EECCA region.

All activities, documentation and training material will be provided in Russian and English.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.912	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Program to Support Statistical Capacity Building in ECA			0.912

VI. Contact point

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