UNSD-ESCWA
Training Workshop on Environment Statistics

HOW TO STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS IN ESCWA COUNTRIES:

Experiences from results of the MED-Env programme

Damascus, 4-8 April 2004
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Plan bleu – France
MEDSTAT-Environment II

A programme
Implemented by Plan bleu
Financed by the European Union
I.

MEDSTAT - Environment I

PRESENTATION AND MAIN RESULTS
The MEDSTAT Programme

10 sub-programmes

Twelve recipient countries

One common objective: produce reliable statistics, consistent with international standards
General objective: Improving the sustainable capacity of the 12 countries to

- produce and publish environmental statistics
- comprehensive, reliable, timely, relevant
- meet international standards
**Priority themes:**

- **Water:** resources, quality, wastewater generation and treatment
- **Land:** land use, land use changes, soil degradation
- **Waste:** municipal, hazardous and other waste generation and treatment
MED-Env I: structure elements

Activities:

- 6 trainings
- 95 missions
- 22 study visits to 7 institutions (reg, nat, int)
- 5 national consultancies

Tools:

- Questionnaire OECD/eurostat
- Regional and national Database: ECHEMS
- Computing equipment purchase
MED-Env Database: ECHEMS

Tool objectives:

- To structure and manage the statistics collected in MED-Env, their metadata and also various notes.
- Several geographical levels, multi-sources.
- To exchange data, notes and metadata between NSO, Plan bleu, Eurostat.
- To allow the editing / export of various reports and balances.
ECHEMS preserves the structure of the OECD/Eurostat questionnaire tables.

Q2 Table « Water 1 » = ECHEMS List « Water 1 »

- Definition, Unit, Nomenclature
- Data note.

country: Cyprus
Source: Water Dpt

list = query to the DB, adaptable, changeable: various questionnaires

Associating and managing textual information layers
MED-ENV I : MAJOR RESULTS

1. Institutional strengthening
2. Interinstitutional relations
3. Capacity building
4. Data and metadata balance
## Institutional strengthening

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DATA COLLECTION:
Number of data by country for all topics

- DZ
- CY
- EG
- IL
- JO
- LB
- MT
- MA
- PS
- SY
- TN
- TR

Air
Water
Marine
Waste
Land
Forest
PAC
Wildlife
Indicators
VISIBILITY

Publications:

β National compendia
β Regional compendium

Diffusion:

β Euromed Bulletin
  ĭ Environment chapter (Mediterranean data provided by Plan Bleu)

β New Cronos (Eurostat Database)
  ĭ All data published in Med. Compendium and Euro-med bulletin for the three main fields are available in New Cronos
Main recommendations

1. **Need for information:**

   - Better consistency between national statistical programmes and data collection requested for international conventions or other international programmes.

   - Involve the statisticians in the preparatory work of the national strategies of Environment and sustainable development.

   - Reduce the questionnaire / Adapt it to national needs / Make some definitions more precise.
Main recommendations

1. Need for information (cont’d):

- Improve the coordination between various institutes involved in the drafting of reports and statistical compendia.

- Promote the use of environmental statistics for the assessment of policies.

- Develop some themes at more detailed geographical levels (coastal areas...)

- Develop estimation methods for the missing data and/or to be informed for the available ones.
2. **Coordination:**

- Harmonization of the definitions, the nomenclatures and the aggregations levels
- Grouping the environmental statistics questionnaires at the NSO level. They will be dispatched after to the relevant data producers
- Information feedback: access to the national and New Cronos databases, dissemination of national and Mediterranean compendia (on paper, CD, Web…)
3. **Visibility:**

- To prepare, within the framework of MED-Env2, an agreement for the production and the dissemination of data between the NSO and the other national organizations.

- Importance of continuing the production of publications (compendia, outline of statistics, technical notes and methodology, etc.)

- Facilitating the access to databases, meta-data and to others WEB sites.

- WEB version of the ECHEMS database.
FINALE CONFERENCE
Main recommendations

4. Synergy:

β Coordination between internationals institutions demands

β Integration of international dimension in the national programme

β Great importance of inter-sectorial synergy at Mediterranean level.
II.

MEDSTAT-Environment Phase 2:

OBJECTIVES AND MEANS
MEDSTAT - Environment II

Priority themes:

- Pollutants emissions in the atmosphere
- Biodiversity: endangered species and protected areas
- Sustainable Development Indicators
MEDSTAT-Environnement II

Expected results:

1. The work and the results achieved in MED-Env I concerning the capacity building in the field of waste, water and land use, are consolidated.

2. An operational capacity for the production and the dissemination of harmonised statistics in the field of air emission, bio-diversity and SDI is developed.

3. The production database set up within MED-Env I is maintained, revised and adapted to the new fields added in MED-Env II.
MEDSTAT-Environnement II

Expected results:

4. National systems for data collection based on the OECD/EUROSTAT Joint Questionnaire, adapted to the specific situation of the Mediterranean Region, are strengthened.

5. The environmental statisticians networks involved in the production of statistics in the 6 priority fields, are created and/or enlarged.


7. National, regional and international users’ needs are taken into consideration.