

ESCAP Regional Programme on Improving Economic Statistics

ESCAP Statistics Division

Mandate for Programme

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- 1st Session- Committee on Statistics, 2009
 - Coordinating governance structure to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of an action plan for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region
 - Establish a technical advisory group (TAG) to provide guidance to its Bureau and the ESCAP secretariat on the development and periodic revision of a regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics

Building a Programme

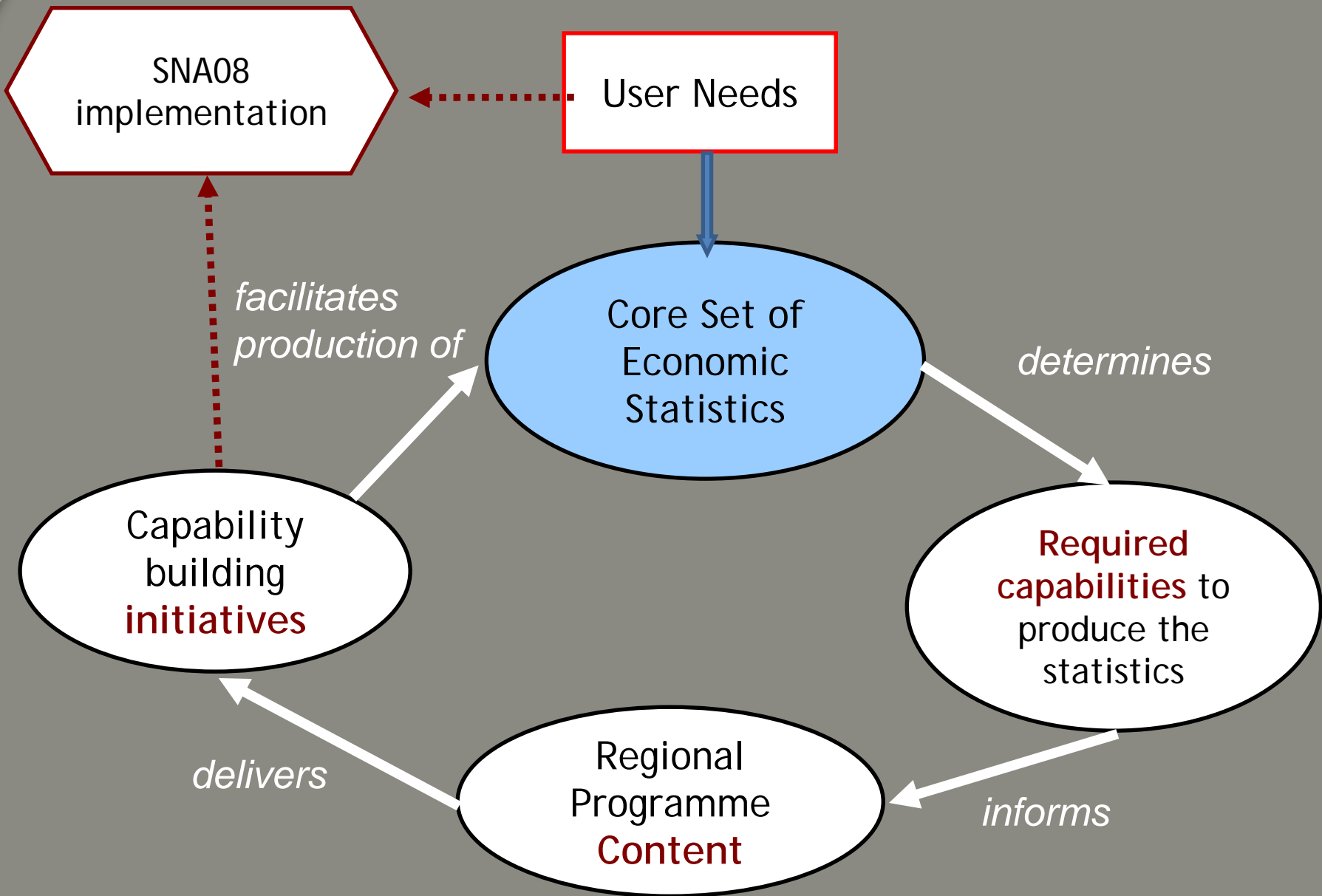
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- Agree on a **core set of economic statistics** that each NSS in the region should *be able* (aspire!) to produce
- **Assess capacity of NSSs** to produce economic statistics and determine main impediments to produce core set
- Identify what **NSSs and statistics development partners** are doing/planning to do to overcome capacity constraints

... Building a Programme

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- Identify **remaining gaps** in capacity of NSSs
- Determine **priorities** of each NSS
- Develop **work plans** to address priorities
 - ▣ Integrating capacity building requirements for economic statistics in **National Strategies for the Development of Statistics**
 - ▣ Mobilizing (advocating for the mobilization) of national and international **resources** (funding)



Relationship of Core Set to Regional Programme

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- Purpose of programme is to develop the capacity to produce a range of economic statistics, i.e., remove the constraints preventing their production
- Core set fulfils two roles:
 - ▣ Determines the *scope* of the programme
 - ▣ Provides guidance on the *minimum* set of economic statistics to be produced.

Determining Core Set

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- Driven by user needs, national & international
- Produce database to inform, analyse and monitor:
 - ▣ trends in macroeconomic growth
 - ▣ stability in real & financial markets
 - ▣ monetary and fiscal policy
 - ▣ efficient functioning of markets
 - ▣ policies to deliver sustainable development and improvements in economic well-being
 - ▣ international reporting needs; etc
- Not driven solely by SNA08 implementation needs - but SNA and MDG needs influence it

Laying out the Core Set

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- Seven priority economic domains
- Key statistics within a domain
 - ▣ Each statistic is “core”
 - ▣ Allows for flexibility according to NSS needs
- Recommendations on
 - ▣ Frequency
 - ▣ *Other characteristics*
- Identification of international standards, guidelines and/or recommendations

Economic Domains

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Domain	Categories of Statistics
Prices and Costs	9
Demand and Output	10
Income and Wealth	5
Money and Banking	3
Government	2
Labour Market	3
Natural assets and Environment	1

Domain: Prices & Costs

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- CPI
- PPI
- **External merchandise trade price indexes**
- Commodity price index
- Labour costs index/Wage index
- Earnings
- Terms of trade
- Exchange rates
- PPPs

Statistics Category: EMT Price Indexes

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Characteristic	Value
Frequency	Monthly
In GDDS/SDDS?	Yes
Comment	Commodity detail is country specific
International standard/guidelines	

Domain: Demand & Output

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- GDP (production) nominal and real
- GDP (expenditure) nominal and real
- **External trade- merchandise (EMT)**
- External trade- services
- Short term indicator (STI)- industry output
- Economy structure statistics
- STI- consumer demand
- STI- fixed investment
- STI- inventories
- Productivity

Statistics Category: EMT

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Characteristic	Value
Frequency	Monthly
In GDDS/SDDS?	Yes
Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Values and volume indexes• Commodity detail is country specific
International standard/guidelines	IMTS Concepts and Definitions: 2010

Capacity Building

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- Technical
 - Assessments
 - NSDS
 - Work plans
 - Improving statistical infrastructures
 - Improving methodological transparency
- Training
- Coordination- regional and national levels
- Advocacy- regional and national levels