

Annual Meeting of the Directors of the NSIs
of the Mediterranean ENP Countries



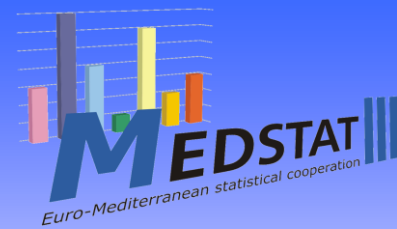
Development of Common Regional Harmonised Social Indicators

Istanbul
13 April 2011

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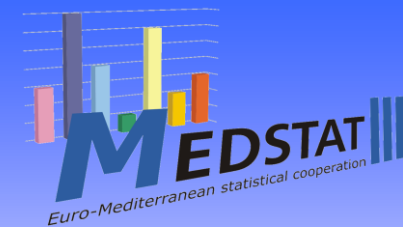
Position: *Key Expert for social statistics
sector*





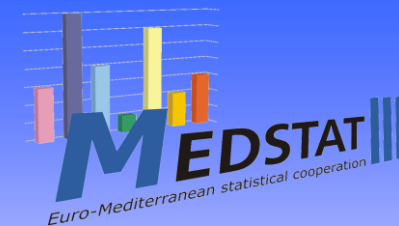
Presentation outline

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2. **Why supporting the development of harmonised social indicators?**
3. **Our vision of the harmonisation process**
4. **What did we achieve so far?**
5. **What are the outstanding issues?**
6. **Some potential implications for the countries**
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8. **Expected output?**
9. **What's next?**



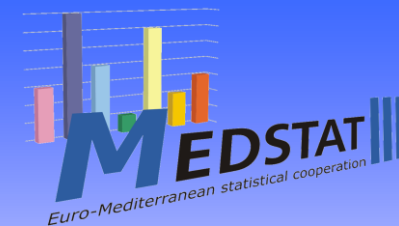
Harmonisation under Medstat II

- **Workshop in Libourne, 2007**
- **Sub-sectors: Population, Education, Labour, and Standards of Living.**
- **First list of harmonised social indicators – associated with related definitions**
- **Four rounds of data collection**
- **A series of publications (statistical bulletins, thematic analytical papers)**
- **And yet, more remains to be done**
- **Caveat: full consistency is neither achievable nor realistic**



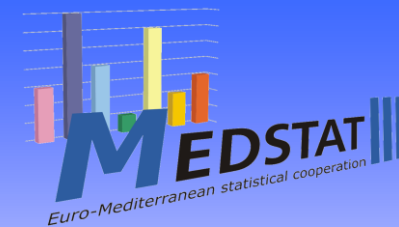
Why supporting the development of harmonised social indicators?

- **Assist countries in building their capacities for improving the quality, reliability, and dissemination of their statistical outputs, including documented metadata;**
- **Assist countries producing comparable indicators to**
 - ✓ Monitor progress in the Euro-Med cooperation in the ENP process;
 - ✓ Serve as a basis for economic and political dialogue between Mediterranean partners;
- **Provide a methodological framework for comparison across time and space in the Mediterranean region, and with other countries ;**
- **Support the regular data collection of social statistical carried out by Eurostat in the ENP South countries.**



Our vision of the harmonisation process

- **Building on existing national practices for producing harmonised, standardised, and comparable Social Indicators;**
- **Promoting the visibility of national outputs and increasing the use of national data by the international users' community;**
- **Up-grading national methods and definitions for better consistency with international standards**
- **Harmonisation is more cost-effective at the beginning of the data collection process (upstream, source) rather than at the final stage of the production;**
- **Quality checks are performed in close coordination with the national source;**
- **Any change or adjustment of national data should be validated by the national source before publication;**
- **Publications should be supported by methodological references.**



What did we achieve so far?

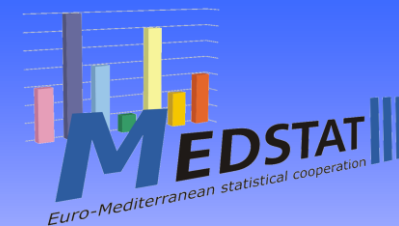
During the 2nd Workshop in Paris, 1-4 March 2011 on Harmonising Social Indicators:

- **Delegates reviewed and approved all proposed indicators (\pm 70) and associated international definitions (amendments, additions, removals);**
- **National differences (gaps) with international standards were highlighted;**
- **Delegates committed to reduce the (major) differences after approval by authorities;**
- **Delegates committed to achieve building Metadata files for each indicator;**
- **Delegates volunteered to actively participate in the new Technical Task Force (TTF) for completing the harmonisation process;**
- **Agreed on drafting Regional Guidelines for the harmonisation of social indicators for the Mediterranean ENP countries to be published as a Medstat III self-standing publication.**



□ What are the outstanding issues?

- > **The large majority ($\pm 90\%$) of social indicators currently produced and disseminated by the Mediterranean ENP countries are consistent with European and international standards;**
- > **However, substantial issues remain for:**
 - o Education: quality, achievement (*not produced in most countries*);
 - o TVET: enrolment, attendance, achievement, budget expenditure (*not produced in most countries*) ;
 - o Labour: Employment (*inclusion or exclusion of armed forces?*), Unemployment, Underemployment, Informal employment, Decent Work, etc (*methodology and definitions*) ;
 - o Salary indexes (*not produced in most countries*);
 - o Poverty line (*absolute or relative?*), poverty incidence in monetary terms (*income or expenditures?*);
 - o Access to social services: secured tenure of housing (*not produced in most countries*); energy consumption (*to construct*);
 - o Under-five, neo-natal and peri-natal mortality rates (*to improve coverage*);
 - o Vital registration including Death, Birth, Marriage, Divorce, Migration (*to improve coverage*).
- **Extension to Health statistics (*to identify new indicators*).**



Some potential implications for the countries

- **The shift from producing “non-comparable indicators” to “comparable indicators” may require some fundamental methodological changes up-stream;**
- **Better coordination with line ministries for improving MIS for collecting and processing administrative records;**
- **Staff training in data analysis, regional comparisons, and data dissemination;**
- **Keep staff up-to-date with changes in the international thinking;**
- **Wider dissemination of adequately presented statistics to meet users needs;**
- **Exploring new fields in social investigation;**
- **Allocating additional resources for introducing innovative methods.**



Coordination with other partners

➤ Partners:

- International partners: UN-ESCWA, UN-ECE, ILO, UNESCO, PARIS21, OECD, WHO, ETF, World Bank;
- Bilateral partners: EU NSI, Research centres and Universities;
- Mediterranean countries institutions

➤ Areas

- Best practices
- Contribution to planned events
- Joint Technical assistance missions
- Joint publications



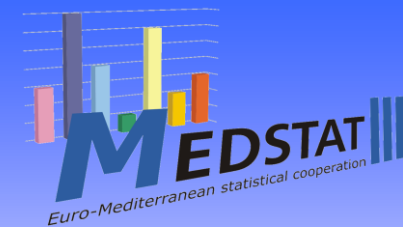
Our expectations

➤ **During current meeting:**

- ✓ Comment on the list of common Regional Harmonised Social Indicators;
- ✓ Endorse the list of common Regional Harmonised Social Indicators;
- ✓ Endorse the establishment and functioning of the Technical Task Force (TTF) on the harmonisation of social indicators under MEDSTAT III;

➤ **Before the end of the project**

- ✓ Provide TA missions on selected outstanding issues;
- ✓ Commitment by NSIs to producing and disseminating Social Indicators;
- ✓ Completion of metadata files by the Technical Task Force (TTF);
- ✓ Draft and publish Regional Guidelines for Harmonising Social Indicators for the Mediterranean ENP countries (MEDSTAT III publication);
- ✓ Review progress done by the 2nd Task Force on Social Statistics - to be scheduled at the end of 2012.

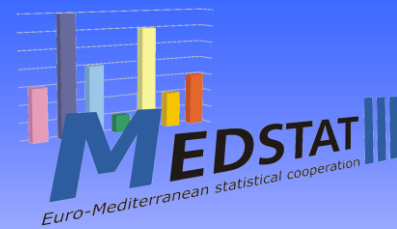


Expected outputs

- **Set of common Regional Harmonised Social Indicators.**
- **Metadata files for each social indicator matching the 9 Mediterranean ENP countries with international standards.**
- **Regional Guidelines for producing standardised Social Indicators in the Mediterranean ENP countries.**



This project is funded by the European Union



Thank you for your attention

This project is implemented by:



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