

# Project Concept Note Template for the follow-up meeting of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum

Ashgabat, 2011

**Deadline: 15 April 2011**

**Please send to [marton.krasznai@unece.org](mailto:marton.krasznai@unece.org)**

<b>Project Title</b>	Streamlining statistical production	
<b>Outcome</b>	Raised awareness of new ideas and techniques to improve the efficiency and sustainability of statistical production processes	
<b>Indicative Funding Requirements</b>	Total estimated budget:	\$765,000
<b>Potential Sources of Funding</b>	[Donor(s): [Development Bank(s): Other Resources:	No funding pledged so far
<b>Expected start date</b>	September 2011	
<b>Expected Duration</b>	2 years	
<b>Implementing Organisation(s)</b>	UNECE	
<b>Country/Countries</b>	SPECA Countries	
<b>Submitted by</b>	UNECE Statistical Division	
<b>Contact information</b>	Steven Vale tel +41 22 917 3285 <a href="mailto:steven.vale@unece.org">steven.vale@unece.org</a> UNECE Statistical Division Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland	

## 1 Background

Despite significant improvements in the national capacity to produce official statistics in recent years, timely and reliable data are not always available in the SPECA countries. The current financial crisis has further reduced their capacity to produce high quality statistical information by reducing the resources needed to implement international recommendations and guidelines.

The proposed project will focus on streamlining the data production processes, improving timeliness, leveraging existing expertise in some countries of the region, sharing national good practices and promoting an active network of experts (statisticians and policy makers) within the SPECA countries.

## 2 Justification

The objective of the project is to introduce and discuss recent ideas and approaches for modernising and streamlining statistical processes, to improve the efficiency of statistical production in participating countries. This project is demand-driven as it addresses needs identified during the UNECE / EFTA / Eurostat Global Assessments of the statistical systems of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Traditionally, the statistical production process from survey design, through data collection and processing to dissemination is rather resource intensive, and takes place independently for each statistical domain. Each domain has its own data suppliers, processing systems, methodologies and user groups. This approach has worked in the past, but it is now challenged by a rapidly changing environment. The development of new approaches to statistical production is driven by the need to

respond to new requirements for statistics e.g. on complex and cross-cutting issues such as globalisation, ageing societies or climate change. It is also triggered by the need to reduce the burden on respondents and the costs for producing statistics. At the same time technological advances create new possibilities for collecting, storing and integrating data from various sources.

This project will promote various current global and regional initiatives. Some specific topics such as standardisation, the use and integration of new data sources, and the implementation of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (a recent UNECE international standard) will be more closely examined. Experts from statistical organisations that are closely involved in these developments, and are implementing new production methods, both within and outside the region, will share their experiences. The possibilities for streamlining statistical production in the participating countries will be evaluated, and conclusions will be drawn on how best to proceed.

### 3 Expected Output(s)

- a. Increased capacity of countries of the region to produce statistics in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner
- b. Strengthened capacities to use, analyse, disseminate and communicate statistical information for international comparisons and monitoring progress towards the achievement of targets such as the Millennium Development Goals.

### 4 Proposed Approach & Strategy, including Capacity Development Response

The project will start with a kick-off workshop to present the latest thinking about the most efficient ways of producing statistics. This workshop will also be used to evaluate country specific needs and actions.

As a result, various follow-up actions are envisaged, such as study visits, financial support to attend relevant international meetings, and targeted consultancies on specific issues. As these follow-up actions will be demand-driven, targeted to address different national priorities, it is difficult to precisely define them at present. Where possible, these activities will draw on existing experiences and good practices amongst the participating countries.

A final workshop will review the progress made in the project, facilitate the sharing of experiences, and identify further actions to be taken after the project has ended.

A key feature of the project will be the facilitation of better contacts between national statistical organisations, and the creation of a regional network for exchanging experiences and information, which is expected to continue well beyond the life of the project.

### 5 Annual Work Plan

PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME			PLANNED BUDGET
	Q1	Q2-Q7	Q8	Amount
1. Kick-off workshop	X			\$60,000
2. Study visits		X		\$70,000
3. Participation in relevant international expert meetings		X		\$70,000
4. Targeted consultancy activities		X		\$30,000
5. Final workshop			X	\$60,000
6. Translation of relevant international standards	X	X	X	\$10,000
7. Temporary assistance (one expert at the P3 level for 24 months who works on all project activities)	X	X	X	\$365,000
8. Programme support cost at UNECE (15%)				\$100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$765,000</b>