
Project: Sistema de Informação sobre a Conjuntura
Subproject: Inquérito de conjuntura
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Status report

Period: Jan.2001

Duration of the employment in Praia: 17.01.2001 - 24.01.2001

Project extent: The advisor should advise and support the INE (Instituto Nacional de Estatística) at the time of the planning and execution of an economic survey. The survey consist of 4 separate inquiries (sectors: Turismo, Construção, Comércio formal e Comercio informal). The results of this inquiry will be an empirical component of the planned Revista de Conjuntura of the department: Planeamento of the Treasury. The first inquiry is planned for 3/2001. The INE would like to publish the results of this inquiry also within its own responsibility. The results are not to be interpreted except with a technical explanation. The enterprises, which participated in the inquiry, are to be informed shortly after the inquiry about the results. The activities as advisors in the context of the subproject are finished. The advisor however stands ready for the INE as a partner also in the future.

The direct partners in INE were

Dr. Francisco Rodrigues (FrR) as a leading responsible person for the economic survey,
Dr. Fernando Rocha (FeR) as a technical responsible person and
Christophe dos Santos (ChS) as a computer expert for the economic survey.

The following activities were accomplished:

- Questionnaires were supplied in a first draft by the advisor before the assignment in with INE and were revised before by INE. The questionnaires can be used in the current form for the first inquiry. The status of the questionnaires had been examined by FeR and FrR and corrections of the questionnaires for the 4 planned inquiries have been approved by the responsible persons.
- Data input programs were sketched from INE/ChS for the questionnaires. The status of the data input programs was examined, according to the final corrections the changes to the questionnaires was adapted by ChS. INE/ChS has the capacity to adapt the data input programs without further support.
- Execution of the inquiries: This lies completely in the hands of INE, questions of sample design and the technical procedures were discussed with INE. INE in general has the necessary expert's knowledge for inquiries
- Processing of the data: All preparations of the data necessary for the execution of inquiries were readily prepared in the form of EXCEL files the processing by INE with the help of these EXCEL files. After supply of the questionnaire results and copy of the raw data in appropriate EXCEL data sheet, further transformed EXCEL sheets make the same file available for the processing and data display in form of tables and diagrams.

These EXCEL files process all 4 questionnaires and are able to produce time series after surveys for several trimesters. The results are to then to be made available for the Revista de Conjuntura of the number 0 and the further regular publications

The mentioned Excel files are finished and delivered to INE/FrR , FeR and ChS in a concluding presentation about their handling.

A manual on Portuguese is supplied later by email. This manual describes in detail the technical aspects of the publication.

Concluding remarks and further prospects:

INE has excellent specialists, who will be able to accomplish the planned economic survey. The analysis files developed in the consulting period should supply immediately the preparatory results. INE

will then hand over a part of these results to the planned information system in the Treasury. The enterprises, which should have participated in the inquiry, should receive the detailed results as a positive feedback.

This will strengthen the connection of the enterprises to the INE by the economic survey. It will also improve the competence profile of the INE in the public.

It should not be hidden however the fact that usually economic surveys of this kind do not belong to the general task spectrum of a statistic office since this inquiry with their qualitative aspects is rather a basis of an interpretation as it will speak for itself. Private research institutes for economic surveys are rather the authors of such studies. These are however missing in Cabo Verde. Their imbedding into an information system to the economic situation is meaningful in this context.

By its own publication INE will be however in a role of the analyst of the the planned INE publication and concentrate on the most necessary during the description of the results.

Possibly the inquiry of the "Comercio informal" will become problematic. An inquiry of this kind is to be accomplished only with interviewers. How this will happen in Cabo Verde, is not yet completely clear to INE. Experiences in this area are missing and typically not easy to compare to other countries.

Also it will be important that the rural sector has a large economic weight and probably also an important informal sector to be expected. The informal sector, if it will be systematically observed, will be very suitable and of great importance within business research, particularly if it will be compared with the other and formal sectors.