

At a Glance: The Management Information System on Statistical Training – MIS-ST

Why a MIS-ST?

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has initiated the development of a Management Information System on Statistical Training (MIS-ST) with the objective to enhance the effectiveness of statistical trainings in the ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific). The system intends to articulate analytic and quantitative information on inter-related dimensions that are:

- The demand of National Statistical Systems for different types of statistics-related training.
- The demand from all other public or private institutions for the services of statistics-related training providers.
- The provision of statistics training.

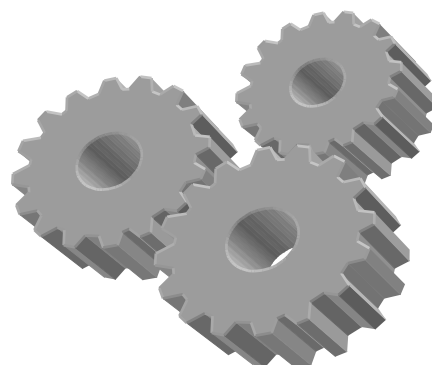
The driving reason for the decision to develop such a kind of a management tool was the fact that active experience in statistical development and training over years, as well as exchange with countries and evaluations, have shown that there is a redundant difficulty to identify clearly and to monitor systematically the demand for statistics related training at the level of the NSI. Henceforth there is also a difficulty on the training provider's side to adapt appropriately their supply to the needs originating from official statistics.

This tool finds its place in the framework of the statistical capacity building initiatives undergone by the African countries and their international partners and the ongoing elaboration of NSDS or other strategic development planning for National Statistical Systems in developing countries.

The MIS-ST is a contribution to a country-driven and country-owned management of processes aiming at statistical capacity building, with a particular focus on statistical training. It intends to link all actors (NSI/NSS, Statistical Training Institutions, regional organisations and donors) involved in a process that starts at the demand side from the statistical producing units, aggregates the demand at each level of the NSS and ends with the supply side of the training institutions. The system offers the opportunity to all these actors to bring in their views from their very specific perspectives and roles. It is intended to provide a practical contribution to the statistical capacity building initiatives and the implementation of NSDS.

Who benefits from the MIS-ST?

- *The MIS-ST is a tool that facilitates and organises systematically the decision making process linked to the identification of statistics related training needs within the NSS. It provides a sound basis of information that covers the various dimensions of the demand and supply for/of training in statistics. The main users here are institutional data producers of the NSS, mainly the NSI. The primary reference unit is the statistical production unit. The NSI plays a central role in the system.*
- *The MIS-ST is a tool that informs Statistical Training Centres - training providers - on the demand for training of their major clients (data producers of official statistics). It allows them to improve their response to the demand and to plan their training capacities over time (long-term, basic, short term, on-the job, and/or specific trainings). They may also use the system to identify statistics related training demands from the private sector.*
- *The MIS-ST is a tool that informs regional organisations on the training demands of the NSS in the region that they cover. They can comment and/or identify training needs at their own level.*
- *The MIS-ST is a tool that informs donors on the training demands of the NSS). It also includes information on the funding of training demands. The donors can comment and/or identify training needs from their own perspective.*



What is the MIS-ST?

The MIS-ST is a **toolbox** which contains three tools:

- The **assessment reports** are information and decision making tools for the NSIs, other statistical producers in NSS, regional organizations, donors and statistical training centers. Their establishment follows a logical progression as shown below.
- The **database**, basically considered as an input tool, generates the assessment reports and feeds the decision making process.
- The **handbook** describes the MIS-ST system and provides instruction for the decision making process and for all the successive steps of the operation. It refers specifically (where indicated) to other sources/references (action plans, NSDS, GDDS, regional programmes, national policies, PRSP, international obligations, donor financing, etc....) that need to be taken into consideration through the whole process.

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The underlying principles of MIS-ST

The MIS-ST is developed **result orientated – with a bottom-up flow of information.**

Seven (7) Assessment Reports are successively produced for different levels. The content is generated by the database system which leads through the different steps of the decision making processes starting from the collection of information.

The system is **motivation led** – this means that the statistical activity (survey, census, etc.) is the key reference to which the training demand is linked. The key primary information is the one coming from the statistical production unit. The production unit may be at the NSI or in any other data producing institution within the NSS. Private institutions may use the same functionalities of the system (database) if so requested.

*For practical reasons, it is recommended to limit the number of statistical activities for each statistical production unit and the number of training per activity **to the three most important.** The same is true for the number of years to plan which shall also be limited to three.*

The MIS-ST is conceived in a way that allows countries at any stage of development of their NSDS to utilise it. The MIS-ST may even allow contributing to actively structure the training plan linked to the NSDS or any other planning or development strategy put in place at the country level or at the regional level.

Workflow of the MIS-ST

