

This quarterly update covers the fourth quarter 2016 of implementation of the Technical Cooperation for the EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (COMPASS). It aims to provide a brief overview of past and future activities of the project. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Expertise France Consortium and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Project Management

The COMPASS Team Leader, Yannick Bineau, attended the ACSS6 meeting in Vientiane (1-3 November). He presented the progress of the project and the forecast for the coming period. Additionally, he conveyed a written message of the European Commission (Eurostat), congratulating the stakeholders of the ACSS with the achievements made in the upgrading of the regional and national statistical systems. In conclusion, the Commission assured its commitment to continued support to the statistical developments of the ASEAN Community for the years to come.

International Merchandise Trade Statistics

The Second Regional Workshop on IMTS has been organised by COMPASS in Hanoi (11-12 October), back to back with the Second meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on IMTS (13-14 October). The workshop has allowed to present and discuss several issues linked to IMTS2010 new recommendations, in particular issues linked to computation of trade indices, CIF/FOB adjustment, processing activities, production of data on enterprise characteristics. All AMS have presented remaining gaps in the IMTS sector, national workplans for future development of external trade data, and needs for support by COMPASS project. Needs expressed by AMS will be taken in account in the definition of the COMPASS work programme for 2017.

The draft Regional Quality Report on IMTS has been presented during the second meeting of the Working Group. All AMS have provided an answer to the Quality questionnaire. The report is compatible with international standards on quality assessment of IMTS data. It will be updated on a yearly basis.

A Technical assistance has been carried out to Myanmar (17-28 October). The mission allowed to configure Eurotrace to handle together data provided by the MACCS system and Foxpro data, to increase understanding of IMTS concepts and to train more staff on running practical exercises on credibility checks.

Under the project facility "ASEAN helps ASEAN", a Study Visit has been hosted by Vietnam Customs (17-18 October) for representatives from Customs and Statistical Offices from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. The Study Visit has allowed to present and discuss current practices implemented by Vietnam Customs, in particular: the organization and human resources in charge of production and dissemination of IMTS, the legal basis, the institutional framework, the coordination with the main stakeholders, the technical issues on data collection, production and dissemination.

Services International Trade Statistics

A National Workshop in Lao PDR was organised (14-18 November). This was the first SITS mission in Lao PDR under the COMPASS project. Previously support had been provided as part of the EASCAB Programme, although the most recent mission was in 2012. The main objective of this mission was to undertake a national SITS training workshop with staff from Bank of Lao, Lao Statistical Bureau and other data providing institutions. The workshop was well attended with good participation and feedbacks. In addition, the 2016 SITS data submission was reviewed, the AANZFTA SITS Pilot Survey discussed and a plan developed to take forward SITS work in Lao PDR.

Institutional Building

During the fourth quarter, the IB Lead Expert continued providing assistance to the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Department/ ASEANstat in the preparation of the ACSS contribution to the 50th Year Celebration of ASEAN in August 2017. The planned activities include the compilation of the ASEAN@50 main publication material and its derivative documents to be presented using infographics and other data visualization tools for dissemination during ASEAN forums; a statistical exhibit at the ASEAN lobby around the week of 08 August 2017 featuring demonstration of ASEC statistical databases, some of which were developed with the support of COMPASS; and a High Level Forum to be held back-to-back with the ACSSC7 in Manila in October or November next year. In addition, the two IB Experts assisted the ASEANstat in developing the Key Performance Indicators for the ASEAN RSDS/ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025.

On 28 November 2017, the Philippine Statistics Authority held an ACSS forum in line with the COMPASS cascading initiative now being implemented in the Philippines and Myanmar.

The CLMV scholars pursuing their masteral studies at the University of the Philippines School of Statistics attended the 13th National Convention of Statistics (NCS) on 3-4 October 2016. The NCS is the biggest national gathering of statisticians in the Philippines, now held every 3 years. One of the simultaneous NCS sessions attended by the scholars was on ASEAN Statistics, organized by IB Lead Expert Romulo Virola and coordinated by Philippine COMPASS Coordinator Candido J. Astrologo Jr.



A study visit was organized by COMPASS in Luxembourg (14-18 November). The purpose of the study visit was to share Eurostat's knowledge and practice in relation to the production and dissemination of statistics, and how the European Statistical System functions. The study visit was also to allow for peer exchange among the participants from national or regional statistical systems outside of the European Union. Having learned from Eurostat's knowledge and practical sharing, this study visit was quite relevant to the work of the ASEANstats and the ASEAN Working Group on Data Sharing, Dissemination and Communication of Statistics (WGDSA), covering topics such as standardization of metadata, data quality assurance, code of practice, confidentiality policies, tools/methods in dissemination of statistical information, and indirectly the work of all other ASEAN statistical working groups.



The yearly closed and open sessions of the ACSS Committee found place from 1 to 3 November 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Preceding to the meeting, the ACSS Sub-Committee for Planning and Coordination was convened for preparatory discussions on 25 and 26 October. The COMPASS project facilitated and supported the conduct of the SCPC sessions; the IB Short Term Expert provided expert advice. The latter also assisted the organizing committee of the Lao Statistics Bureau with the preparation and finalization of meeting documents and presentations for the ACSS6.

In the last quarter of 2016, the COMPASS project organized an explorative survey among the AMSs about the eventual establishment of the ASEAN Statistical Training Agenda. The responses pointed to the unequivocal conclusion that strengthened cooperation in the field of regional training is indicated for addressing emerging developments in the statistical systems. Those are amongst others, the need for quantitative substantiation of the outcome/impact monitoring of the ASEAN integration, and -at the global level- the new needs of sustainable development indicators. The COMPASS project envisages follow-up actions in 2017 for assistance with the establishment of the Training Agenda.

Information Technology and Dissemination

An ITD mission was organised in Myanmar at DICA jointly with FDIS expert. IT technical assistance was provided to optimize the questionnaire templates (Microsoft Excel spreadsheet) for both paper and electronic forms. Furthermore, a database was prepared in order to exploit the data collected through the questionnaires. Finally DICA staffs were trained on the use of both the questionnaire and the database.

Another ITD mission was organised in ASEAN Secretariat in November and December to enhance the integrated database and to run deeper tests regarding the migration of the Eurotrace data production tool from Access to SQLserver.

Foreign Direct Investment on Statistics

COMPASS provides support to organize the 4th CLMV Workshop on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS). From 19 to 20 October 2016, a 2-day workshop was organized by EU-ASEAN COMPASS in Jakarta, back to back with the Study Visit hosted by Bank of Indonesia.

9 participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam, as well as 1 participant from ASEANstats, worked together on two aspects of FDIS compilation and dissemination.

The first aspect to be tackled was the use of financial statements received from companies in the FDIS compilation process. The participants had come with examples from their respective countries and, after training, tried to draw FDI-related information from them. However, implementation of such a methodology in the CLMV countries would face, depending on the country, either institutional or technical difficulties.

The second aspect was reporting on a FDI survey. In small groups, the participants analysed reports from diverse countries and identified, within these reports, practices they could reproduce at home.



At the end of the workshop, a short assessment of CLMV needs in the FDIS field was made with the participants, in order to plan COMPASS next year activities.

Study visit to Bank of Indonesia for compilers of Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS) was supported by COMPASS. In the framework of EU-ASEAN COMPASS, from 17 to 18 October 2016, Bank of Indonesia hosted colleagues from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam for a Study Visit in Jakarta.

During two days, 11 participants (including a representative of ASEANstats and a COMPASS Short Term Expert in FDIS) were presented the Indonesian process to compile FDI flows and positions, starting from the data collection step and ending in the web-dissemination of the statistics.

10 experts from the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Division and from the Compliance and Reporting Department as well as support staff, were mobilized by Bank of Indonesia for this Study Visit. Participants appreciated the presentations very much and asked many questions.

COMPASS, as well as the participants, would like to take the opportunity of this article to thank all of them for their warm welcoming and for their investment in the organisation of this Study Visit. New links have been established between ASEAN FDIS compilers, which will undoubtedly develop further.



Other Field

ASEAN has appointed an MDG and SDG Task force with one member from each of the member states. During the last quarter of 2016, all member states submitted updates of the MDG statistics for 2015 to the ASEAN statistical database. During the period 21st November to 2nd December the COMPASS expert worked with the ASEAN Statistical Division to review, quality check and impute national MDG statistics and to calculate and tabulate the regional MDG statistics for 1990 – 2015. The expert also prepared the tables and text for the planned statistical report.

During the second quarter of 2016 the ASEAN MDG and SDG Taskforce had received an SDG template. After the UN Statistical Commission IAEG-SDG had met in Geneva in mid-November an up-date of the SDG indicators was distributed to all member states showing that while there are 241 SDG indicators, around 80 of these are still in the so called tier 3 and still waiting for the final meta-data.

In the last quarter of 2016, 6 member-states had completed and submitted the SDG templates. 4 countries had submitted a comprehensive template and 2 a partial template. This will serve as input for the work in 2017

Summary of COMPASS activities implemented during 4th Quarter 2016

Technical assistance missions:

- ITD mission, Yangon, Myanmar, 3 – 5 October 2016.
- IB mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 3 – 21 October 2016.
- IMTS mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 3 – 7 October 2016.
- IB mission, Vientiane, 22 October – 5 November 2016.
- FDIS mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 10 – 20 October 2016.
- IMTS mission, Hanoi, Vietnam, 10 – 14 October 2016.
- IMTS mission, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 17 – 28 October 2016.
- IM mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 24 October – 4 November 2016.
- ITD mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 1-5 November 2016.
- IB mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 14 November – 16 November 2016.
- FDIS mission, Vientiane, Lao, 28 November – 1 December 2016
- SITS mission, Vientiane, Lao, 14 – 18 November 2016
- SITS mission, Hanoi, Vietnam, 21 – 25 November 2016.
- OF mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 21 November – 2 December 2016.
- SITS mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 28 November – 1 December 2016.
- IB mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 28 November – 16 December 2016.
- ITD mission, ASEC, Jakarta, 5 – 16 December 2016.
- PM missions on SITS, IMTS, FDIS, and ITD, ASEC, Jakarta, 5 – 9 December 2016.
- SITS mission, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 12 – 21 December 2016.
- IMTS mission, 12 – 16 December 2016
- SITS mission, Jakarta, Indonesia, 19 – 21 December 2016

Workshops & Seminars

- National Statistics Convention, Manila, Philippines, 3-4 October 2016.
- Regional Workshop on IMTS, Hanoi, Vietnam, 11-12 October 2016.
- Workshop of CLMV Member States on FDIS, Jakarta, Indonesia, 19-20 October 2016.

Upcoming Activities for 1st Quarter 2017.

Technical assistance missions:

- IM mission, Davao City, Philippines, 7 February.
- ITD mission, Phnom Penh, Cambodia , February - March 2017.
- ITD mission in ASEC, Jakarta, February- March 2017.
- ITD mission at ASEC, March.
- SITS mission to Bangkok, Thailand (13-17 February)
- SITS mission to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (20-24 February)
- SITS mission to Phnom Penh, Cambodia (March).
- OF mission to Jakarta, Indonesia (21 February – 3 March).
- FDIS mission, Myanmar, (March).
- FDIS mission, Vietnam, (February).

Workshops & Seminars

- M&E Workshop, Davao City, Philippines, 7 February.
- MDGs/SDGs Indicators Workshop, Jakarta, 27th February – 1st March.
- Regional Workshop on AEC 2025 M&E Framework in the context of ACSS Strategic Plan, Malaysia, 20th -21st March.
- PSC, Malaysia, 21st March.

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