

**FACILITY FOR  
EUROMED  
DIALOGUE AND  
EXCHANGE OF  
BEST PRACTICES**

**MEDSTAT IV**

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**AITRS/ESCWA Regional Workshop on Transport statistics  
and related SDGs indicators**

**Session on Regional and global perspectives on  
Transport indicators: Partnerships, Validation and  
Harmonisation**

**MEDSTAT: Lessons learnt and future perspectives for  
partnership and harmonisation**

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## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- **Statistics on infrastructure, equipment, volumes of transport and performance by mode of transport** are key to understanding the development of transport systems, to monitoring impacts of decisions and policies and to defining strategies
- In this context, **MEDSTAT IV aimed to support the Euro-Mediterranean Working Group on transport statistics** in the implementation of its activities and to contribute to the production of better data with a focus on the development of harmonized statistics based on European standards
- MEDSTAT IV also aimed at contributing to **raising awareness** about the importance of statistics in decision-making through an enhanced dissemination and the development of analytical capacities
- The **dialogue between users and producers of Transport statistics** was at the core of this project, as well as quality based on the implementation of the Statistics Code of Practice for the Neighbourhood South countries

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

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- More specifically, the MEDSTAT IV work programme on transport statistics tackled the **development and harmonization of statistics related to railway, road, sea and air transport of passengers and freight**, including statistics on infrastructure, equipment, traffic and transport volumes. It also tackled the development of economic, technical and environmental **performance indicators** and of specific transport-related **SDG indicators**
- A total of **fourteen regional activities** were implemented in order to achieve these objectives. Beyond these collective events, each partner had the possibility to benefit from a specific **technical assistance mission**
- A key component of this work programme was the production of **regional publications** on transport statistics
- **SDG indicators** were at the core of the work implemented and at the core of the synergy with the Energy statistics working group

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT: GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

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- All partner countries insisted on the **very tangible and positive impact** of this project on the development of their national system of transport statistics:
  - **Harmonization** of national statistics and methodologies with international standards
  - **Improvement of coordination between national producers of transport statistics**
  - **Exploration of new transport statistics areas**, in particular road passenger transport
  - Improvement of transport statistics **quality**, through the implementation of a dedicated **self-assessment questionnaire**
  - Improved **visibility**, through the production of **regional publications**
  - Enhanced **use of transport statistics in policymaking** through the development of impact assessment methods in particular

## ■ Three indicators closely followed in all partner countries:

- **Indicator T3.1:** Application of international manuals and glossaries, witnessed in the metadata on the websites
- **Indicator T3.2:** Availability of comparable statistics for the main aspects of transport statistics
- **Indicator T3.3:** Availability of analytical releases/publication and releases with regional data

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT: MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

- MEDSTAT IV crucially contributed to the **development of new transport statistics** and an **improved quality of existing transport statistics**
- The project allowed to explore, for the first time in the context of MEDSTAT history, the crucial issue of **road passenger transport statistics**
- The production of a **regional manual on road freight transport statistics** should allow all partner countries to implement a pilot road freight transport survey on this basis in a very short future
- The **mirror exercises on geo-referenced sea and air transport statistics** have enabled partner countries to check, correct and validate their statistics, to identify possible sources of asymmetries and to take corrective actions both at the level of ports and airports information systems and at the level of the national statistical system. **A close cooperation has been initiated between ports, airports, NSIs and national agencies** in charge of these statistics

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT: MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

- In all these statistical areas, the project fostered further **harmonisation** of the statistics produced in the partner countries with international standards and resulted in the acquisition of new **knowledge and know-how**
- A vast number of **transport performance and transport-related SDG indicators** have been developed and produced, enabling a breakthrough in the development of analysis in all partner countries
- MEDSTAT IV allowed partner countries to achieve significant progress in the **management of transport statistics quality** with the development of a specific and detailed **self-assessment questionnaire** based on the ENP-S Code of Practice and adapted to transport statistics
- The project also allowed to explore a number of **new potential data sources, tools and methods** for the production of transport statistics, including Big Data and modelling methods
- It supported partner countries in their efforts to expand the **use of transport statistics in decision-making** through the exploration of key methods and **tools** such as impact assessment, forecasting and modelling methods

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT: MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

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- In a number of partner countries, the project contributed to the development of the **cooperation between the national statistical institute, the Ministry of Transport and a variety of modal agencies**, enabling the NSI to have access to new data sources
- **Dissemination and visibility** were also considerably improved thanks, in particular, to the production of the **regional publication on “Energy, Transport and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Countries”**.
- This publication should considerably enhance the **status of transport statistics** in the conception, monitoring and evaluation of transport policies and transport-related SDG policies across the region over the next few years



- **All the ENP-S countries are eager to continue this regional cooperation which they consider as critical to the development of their national statistical systems on transport**
- **Four main lines of action:**
  - **Further improve the quality of existing statistics and their compliance with EU and international standards**
  - **Develop new and crucial statistics**, in particular on road freight and road passenger transport
  - **Develop the use of new data sources**
  - **Enhance analysis, dissemination and visibility**

## PERSPECTIVES: SPECIFIC ACTIONS

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- **Further improve the quality of existing statistics and their compliance with EU and international standards**
  - Perform **regular peer reviews based on the self-assessment questionnaire** developed in the context of MEDSTAT IV on the basis of the ENP-S Code of Practice

- **Develop new and crucial transport statistics:**
  - Implementation of a **pilot road freight transport survey based on the regional manual developed in the context of MEDSTAT IV**
  - Development of **statistics on road passenger transport**
  - Development of statistics on **urban transport**
  - Development of a **transport satellite account**
  - Updating of already available **transport-related performance and sustainable development indicators** and development of new ones
  - Production of **geo-referenced air and sea transport statistics and performance of regular mirror exercises**

- **Develop the use of new data sources, new tools and new methods:**

- **New data sources** should be explored or further explored in this respect, in particular the use of **Big Data** for the production of road passenger transport statistics
- **Impact assessment, modelling and forecasting methods** should be further explored with a view to paving the way for their progressive implementation in the partner countries

### ■ Enhance analysis, dissemination and visibility

- Need to **regularly update, improve and expand the regional publication on “Energy, Transport and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Countries”**
- Need to **regularly update and expand the economic, technical and environmental performance indicators of transport activities and systems as well as the transport-related SDG indicators**

Thank You



This project is implemented by: MEDSTAT IV