UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Quito, 2-4 July 2012

REPORT OF THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK

1. Coordinator

Mexico (Secretary).

2. Member countries

All the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States and Uruguay.

Nine associate members: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the former Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

3. Advisory committee and technical secretariat

The Advisory Committee of the Network comprises Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Spain and the World Bank, which participates as a donor agency. The National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico acts as technical secretariat.

4. Programme 2012-2013

(a)   Description of objectives

General objective:

To consolidate the use of the Knowledge Transfer Network as a shared project; to recognize the strategic value of knowledge; to foster horizontal technical cooperation among Network members (national statistical offices, international agencies and other stakeholders, such as academia); to work together to build a thematic resource centre, expand the network of experts and create synergies for meeting training needs in the region.

Specific objectives:

- Contribute to the coordination of the training activities of all the working groups of the Conference through the Network and strengthen the capacity of countries to generate, analyse and disseminate official statistics by fostering the transfer of the most accurate information possible.

- Help coordinate training programmes in official statistics offered by international agencies in the region, opening up information and communication channels enabling optimal use of the resources available.

- Prioritize the transfer of knowledge via an online learning platform promoting the sharing of information, documentation and good practice in the region.

- The KTN supports the levelling of statistical and human resources development through training and knowledge dissemination.

(b) Main activities proposed for the period 2012-2013

The Network is a tool for cooperating by sharing information and knowledge. Carrying out the main activities proposed requires commitment, leadership, active participation, mutual support, accountability, joint efforts and pooled resources, teamwork and solidarity. The definition, objectives and mission of the Network must be borne in mind, as must the provisions of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015, which reads as follows:

Foster the training of human resources competent in producing quality statistical information, managing national statistical systems and conducting research on statistical methodology.

The Knowledge Transfer Network programme of work for the 2012-2013 biennium thus comprises:

- ❖ new actions and
- ✓ follow-up actions

Knowledge transfer and resource centre

Proposal:

- ❖ Identify as many knowledge transfer initiatives as possible in each country and post the information to the basic KTN tool.

- ✓ Give priority to activities conducted over electronic platforms, such as distance learning.

- ❖ Document experiences, methodologies and best practices, among others, for sharing and transferring knowledge.

- ❖ Use the Network to share technical documents on specialized subjects
  (such as articles, journals and links).

- ❖ Foster/reinforce the following among Network members:

- ✓ Knowledge transfer activities should be announced in advance.
- ✓ Contents and outcomes should be posted to the resource centre for use by the international statistics community.
- ✓ A direct link should be included in all related information to encourage on-site or distance participation by human resources.

To the extent possible, Network member countries shall:

❖ Document information in English and Spanish.

❖ Provide simultaneous interpreting and recording services at training activities.

Identifying training needs

National statistical offices should:

❖ Identify their training needs using the needs evaluation form (Formulario DNC) and encourage colleagues and other national agencies that produce official statistics to fill it out.

❖ Make an effort to ensure that the training and resources offered by the Knowledge Transfer Network cover the main training requirements and areas of greatest interest identified by members.

Communication and dissemination

❖ Adopt and encourage the use of available communications tools: KTN Forum, Facebook, YouTube.

✓ Disseminate the Knowledge Transfer Network as a strategic SCA-ECLAC project. All members of national statistical offices and international agencies should devise a national communication strategy, and all national statistical office staff should be familiar with and use the Knowledge Transfer Network.

✓ Use the KTN portal and/or virtual platforms to disseminate statistical methodologies as well as standards and nomenclatures recommended by international agencies and specialized agencies.

❖ Identify more focal points for the Network, partners who can be driving forces for change, opinion leaders wishing to coordinate Network activities within their national statistical office (they must have a high profile in communication skills and be willing to contribute their efforts to the project).

❖ Create knowledge links among statistical agencies and national statistical offices; encourage participation in the KTN; provide and receive advice and training on specific themes.

❖ Bring in more experts with the support of the SCA-ECLAC working groups, including, among others, academics from member country research centres, universities, agencies and statistical units from ministries to use the KTN as a tool for creating and sharing documents and information to meet the training needs of the region.

Shared governance

The following actions are proposed:

✓ Enhance the role of national statistical offices and international agencies as agents of change for the development of cutting-edge national statistical systems. This calls for:

- Fostering the active involvement of government agencies, academia and international agencies in promoting and conducting training in statistics.

✓ Encourage the permanent investment of national statistical office budget resources in statistical research and development so as to:

- Foster the creation of strategic research projects promoting the development of statistical topics;

- Promote technical cooperation among universities, research centres, NSOs and international agencies to forge agreements to enhance statistical information research and development.

❖ Linking universities, research centres, central banks, ministries and other institutions that can contribute knowledge and disseminate lessons learned by means of documents will enrich the KTN.

✓ Incorporate advances achieved by universities and scientific research centres.

✓ Help secure funding (through technical cooperation and donations) for training and for training experts.

✓ Promote the participation of English- and French-speaking countries.

✓ Encourage the participation of new members.

Seek for some countries to act as hubs for disseminating information and knowledge:

❖ Canada and the United States for the French-speaking and English-speaking Caribbean
✓ Colombia for the Andean Region
❖ Chile for the Southern Cone
❖ Mexico for Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean

❖ Understand the management structure of the Network:

- Explore the resources that Network members have and want to share.
- Help ensure that the training activities offered match training needs.
- Build individual and group learning.
- Organize the stock of information and other documents to be shared via the Network.
- Analyse and apply the work done, to be able to solve problems, make decisions and identify best practices.
- Provide feedback and stay in constant contact with Network members.

Network of experts

The following is proposed:

✓ Promote the participation of more experts who can provide technical advice in one or more thematic areas in keeping with the lines of action of the Strategic plan, thus encouraging their active participation in addressing issues that are specific to the region.

✓ Designate experts in priority themes based on needs, using interactive communication tools, and seek spaces for transferring and disseminating knowledge online.

✓ Generate communication strategies through KTN social networks to help focus attention on needs and issues among experts.

✓ Design an encouragement/acknowledgement system for the SCA-ECLAC KTN.

(c) **Expected outcomes for the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (November 2013)**

That all members of SCA-ECLAC:

❖ contribute resources to the Network
❖ helping enrich the resource centre
❖ fill out the DNC-KTN form to update the assessment of the region
❖ add more knowledge transfer activities and experts
❖ update their information in the basic KTN tool to make it more efficient

5. Progress report

Network training activities 2012

Statistical theme	No. of activities [a]	Activities in 2012	Support materials
Environment and multi-domain statistics	41	3	1
Demography and social statistics	84	9	1
Economic statistics	48	6	0
Methodology for collecting, processing, disseminating and analysing data	132	14	1
Official statistics strategy and management issues	40	5	0
Total	345		

[a] 309 activities in 2009-2011 and **36** activities planned for 2012-2014.

New design for the KTN portal

Over the two-year period, the KTN portal was launched and translated into English so that the English-speaking countries can consult it and contribute knowledge. The YouTube channel was set up to host videos and material related to training activities conducted by the countries and institutions (seminars, courses, workshops and related links).

Tools are in place to feed a corporate social network, Forum and KTN Facebook. They will facilitate communication and further the sharing of knowledge, the exchange of lessons learned and good practices and the transfer of knowledge among Network members and other stakeholders.

Functions of the portal:

(a) Announcing and disseminating the Network.
The portal and the e-bulletins *Novedades RTC* enhance dissemination of Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and of the activities carried out by its working groups;

(b) Reporting on activities in the region, by country and by theme;

(c) Announcing upcoming events at national statistical offices in the region;

(d) Following up on training needs in the region;

(e) Hosting the database of experts on statistics and training centres in the region;

(f) Providing an environment for distance learning in which users can exchange knowledge.

Identifying training needs at the country level, using the online e-questionnaire:

The assessment to identify needs showed that the main themes in need of enhancement are:

The environment; specific techniques for e-dissemination of data; emigration; population censuses and projections; poverty; national and regional accounts; labour costs; health; modernization; agricultural sector; time use; company registers; consumer price indices; tourism account; foreign trade; education; classifications; methods; and framework integration and data quality.

To address these needs, seminars were organized in 2011-2012 in partnership with the SCA-ECLAC working groups on environment statistics and censuses:

2011

• **International seminar and workshop on methodological developments and operational challenges in environment statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean**.
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (14-15 November 2011);

2012

- **International seminar and workshop on the use of census data for migration analysis: focus on experiences with censuses conducted in the 2010 decade**.
  Mexico City (17-18 April 2012);

- **International Workshop of the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and of the Virtual Statistical System (VSS)**.
  Mexico City (12-13 June 2012); and

- **Course on using administrative records for statistical purposes**.
  Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (18-22 June 2012.)

The virtual statistical system of the World Bank (*Virtual Statistical System - VSS*)

- The Virtual Statistical System is an online resource created by the World Bank. It provides in-depth information on how official statistical systems and organizations operate and hosts a library of eLearning courses.

- A large part of the VSS has been translated into Spanish so as to encourage knowledge sharing and the dissemination of best practices in official statistics.

- A Spanish-language version of the VSS will be available soon and will be announced through the KTN.

- The following proposal was accepted by the World Bank: (1) That KTN training activities be included in the VSS to enhance the participation of Latin America; (2) That VSS training activities focused on assessing and identifying priority training needs be included in the KTN.

Including the KTN in the Strategic plan for 2005-2015

The Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC includes the KTN as one of its lines of action.

KTN experts network

- Database of specialists (government officials, academics, researchers and other partners with training and experience in one or more thematic areas of the KTN.

- Registration form for new experts.

KTN labour exchange

In 2011 and thus far in 2012 the KTN has facilitated the identification of experts for the following national statistical offices: DANE (Colombia); INEC (Panama), INE (Honduras) and ONE (Dominican Republic).

KTN directories

Interactive list of SCA-ECLAC members and training centres.

(Virtual) meeting of the KTN council, 16 May 2012

A meeting of the Network council via audio/videoconference was convened to strengthen the general duties of the members of the Council and present a report on outcomes and progress during the period 2011-2012, as well as on execution of grant funding from the World Bank, the Council Strategy and the KTN programme of work for 2012-2013. The report on the meeting is available [online] at www.ceacepal-rtc.org/rtc/es/rtc/documentos.

Objectives to be consolidated in May-June 2012

- Basic Network tool.
  An automatic digital infrastructure is being developed to make the KTN self-managing. NSOs and international agencies will be able to post information at any time. This requires a proactive attitude on the part of stakeholders.

- Training KTN members in managing the new portal: Seminar and workshop on the KTN and VSS, 12-13 June 2012.

- Develop automatic scheduled notifications. Updates will be announced as Network members post information.

Execution of grant funding from the World Bank under Grant Agreement No. TF093236

Category 1: Consulting services (US$ 190,000) [a]	Amount executed	Amount to be executed (May-June 2012)
A. Coordinate, manage, administer, operate and report on Network activities: Fidela Brambila (December 2010-June 2011 and July 2011-June 2012)	668 139.38 Mexican pesos	113 002.86 Mexican pesos Approx. US$ 8 541.66
B. Informatics and information and communication technologies: Cynthia Pardo (October 2011-June 2012)	291 120.69 Mexican pesos	135 603.45 Mexican pesos Approx. US$ 10 255.72
C. Translation services: Gonzalo Celorio Morayta (November 2011 to June 2012)	641 869.98 Mexican pesos	357 130.02 Mexican pesos Approx. US$ 27 011.83
Category 2: Training and workshops (US$ 105,000) [b]	Amount executed	Amount to be executed
A. International seminar and workshop on Methodological developments and operational challenges in environment statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean (November 14-15 2011)	US$ 23 564.91	
B. Workshop on the use of census data for migration analysis (17-18 April 2012)	US$ 33 180.12	
C. Available budget planned to be used for the KTN and Virtual Statistical System international workshop and for funding part of the course on the use of administrative registers for statistical purposes, to be held in Mexico City in June 2012		US$ 48 254.97

[a] The amounts in dollars for this category are estimated and can vary depending on the exchange rate.
[b] The amounts for this category 2 are estimated and subject to registration and payment for the International workshop of the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and Virtual Statistical System (VSS) and the course on the use of administrative registers for statistical purposes.

It is recommended that the Network should have at least one person in basic coordination, i.e. responsible for communication, coordination and management of knowledge transfer activities. Estimated budget for 12 months, approximately US$ 41,000.

Conclusions

Network attendance and commitment by member countries have fallen off. Participation and commitment at the country level remains inadequate and uneven. Reality has shown that the countries' initial enthusiasm and their contribution to the working group's goals must be redoubled during the period 2012-2013.

Greater participation from the countries in the training activities has been evident in the seminars, workshops and courses they have organized, financed by a donor or an international organization. In general, these meetings represent useful opportunities for sharing experiences and mutual learning. Discussion papers were provided, and in many cases, reports were drafted containing conclusions and recommendations on the issue at hand. However, countries sometimes fail to supply copies of the working documents, presentations and other information that would be very useful to retain in the Network resource centre.

Given that countries tend not to use virtual tools for working and communicating, the KTN 2012-2013 programme of work will include heightening awareness of the Network portal to increase members' participation in the virtual platforms Red social RTC, Forum and Facebook, as well as RTC A DISTANCIA. These can be used as collaborative sites for conducting remote meetings and workshops and for members of the Conference to communicate with one another.

For the KTN it is vital that the working groups share their training activities and all information related to the KTN, that communication remains open and that SCA-ECLAC working groups receive support.

The tools are ready on the Knowledge Transfer Network: Network content will further the progress of statistics in the region. It should be shared by all; each and every country can enrich the project.

It is necessary to support the levelling of statistical resource development at the national statistical offices of the region in order to meet the new and growing demand for information in the current environment.

NSOs and international agencies hold a wealth of information, good practices, methodologies and other resources that have still not been shared for use by all.