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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Pucón, Chile, 24-26 April 2013

**REPORT OF THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK OF THE STATISTICAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS\***

2013-241

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\* This document was prepared by Mexico, in its capacity as coordinator and technical secretariat of the Network.



## 1. Introduction

Knowledge transfer networks are a form of cooperation for creating, sharing, mobilizing and disseminating needs, developing capacities and reducing gaps between members, who:

- (i) Pool efforts and resources;
- (ii) Recognize the strategic value of knowledge;
- (iii) Supply information by interconnecting sources;
- (iv) Exchange information and experiences;
- (v) Generate, share and promote the creation of knowledge by working as a network;
- (vi) Share cooperative values such as: willingness, leadership, mutual assistance, responsibility and teamwork, among others;
- (vii) Are committed and participate actively in the network.

The Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA-ECLAC) arose in response to the need to develop a joint and sustainable strategy for strengthening statistical capacity. This was because official statistics were unevenly developed across Latin America, and so cooperation mechanisms such as the Network were needed to help build statistical capacity, facilitate access to knowledge transfer activities, create channels of information and communication and ensure best use of the available resources.

The KTN was thus conceived as a regional public good with a mission to boost the capacity of countries to generate, analyse and diffuse official statistics by encouraging the transfer of the best knowledge available. All 53 members and associate members of SCA-ECLAC may participate in the Network. KTN is also regarded as the best mechanism for coordinating and disseminating the training activities and resources of national and international agencies operating in the region, by creating channels of information and communication that enable optimum use of resources.

The KTN training programme for 2009-2011 was adopted at the fifth meeting of SCA-ECLAC, held in October 2009. The Advisory Committee elected on that occasion was the Dominican Republic, as the chair of the Executive Committee of SCA-ECLAC, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, and Mexico, which serves as technical secretariat and coordinator of the Network, as well as the World Bank, which participates as a donor agency.

The starting point —and rationale for cooperation mechanisms such as the Network— was the assessment that official statistics were unevenly developed across Latin America. A plan of work was prepared for the 2012-2014 biennium, and was adopted by Advisory Committee and presented at the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, which was held in Quito, from 2 to 4 July 2012.

A report (Spanish only) on outcomes and results of the grant received by INEGI from the World Bank in 2007 through project P114685 “Regional Network for Capacity Building of National Statistical Systems TFSCB” and the plan of work of the knowledge transfer network for the 2012-2014 biennium are available on the KTN website [online] [http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org/archivos/activGrantBM\\_esp.pdf](http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org/archivos/activGrantBM_esp.pdf) and [http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org/archivos/planbienio2012-2014\\_esp.pdf](http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org/archivos/planbienio2012-2014_esp.pdf).

## 2. Execution of the grant from the World Bank (2009-2012)

There follows a description of the services provided and activities carried out between December 2010 and June 2012, using resources from World Bank Grant Agreement No. TF093236 in support of the Knowledge Transfer Network of SCA-ECLAC, which were executed by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in its capacity as technical secretariat.

The financial characteristics of the grant from the World Bank for the KTN project were as follows:

<b>Executor agency</b>	<b>INEGI</b>
Date signed	22 January 2010
Date of termination	30 June 2012
Date effective	19 April 2010
First disbursement	18 January 2011
Final disbursement	31 October 2012
Time frame	2 years
Budget	US\$ 295,000
Donor	World Bank

### Activities carried out

The Network has a bilingual portal ([www.ceacepal-rtc.org/rtc/](http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org/rtc/)), which acts as a means of disseminating knowledge which is useful for the development of national statistical offices. The knowledge transfer activities undertaken in the reporting period are listed below.

- (a) Identification of countries' training needs using an online questionnaire (aligned with the KTN thematic classifier). The Network has responded to the priority themes arising from the diagnostic for 2009-2012;
- (b) Preparation of reports of the working groups of the Conference;
- (c) Conduct of a campaign to raise awareness of the Knowledge Transfer Network;
- (d) Provision of knowledge transfer activities organized by thematic area, country, organizing institution, date and alphabetical order of the activity name:

<b>Thematic area</b>	<b>Number of knowledge transfer activities</b>
Demography and social statistics	88
Economic statistics	49
Environmental and multidomain statistics	43
Methodology for collecting, processing, dissemination and data analysis	146
Administrative and strategic affairs of official statistics	50

- (e) Basic KTN tool. This tool allows each country to administer its own information within the portal. There are also corporate social networks including the KTN forum and the You Tube channel which carries videos of the seminars conducted.
- (f) An interactive listing of the focal points of the member countries of the Conference and Network bulletins (Novedades RTC);
- (g) Concept of shared governance

The shared governance concept, which has been promoted among the member countries of the Conference, means that all members contribute resources and provide links to other institutions that generate official statistics in their countries and to academic institutions that may join the Network;

- (h) Networks of training centres and of experts

In the reporting period, the Network created two databases: one of experts with qualifications and experience in one or more thematic areas of the Network, and another of centres offering training in official statistics. The networks of training centres and experts contain a registration module for experts from other statistics-generating institutions. In 2011 and 2012, the networks helped to identify experts needed by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, the National Institute of Statistics and Census of Panama (INEC), the National Institute of Statistics de Honduras (INE) and the National Statistical Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic;

- (i) Adoption of a classification of KTN thematic areas

With a view to organizing the supply of activities and the networks of training and experts and identifying needs, KTN adopted the Standard for Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and the thematic classifier of the Conference of European Statisticians, as proposed at the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee of SCA. By aligning the range of activities on offer with the needs identified, efforts can be directed towards developing plans, programmes and new training activities for creating and strengthening the knowledge and skills that Network members need.

- (j) Translation into Spanish of the World Bank's Virtual Statistical System (VSS)<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this exercise was to broaden the use of the system and aid understanding of its contents in the Spanish-speaking countries of SCA-ECLAC. The Spanish version of VSS was made available online in September 2012.

- (k) Support for the following training activities:

- (i) Working Group on Environmental Statistics
  - 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).

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<sup>1</sup> An online resource which provides ready, structured access to information on how on how official statistics are generated and how statistical systems operate (see [online] <https://www.virtualstatisticalsystem.org/>).

- (ii) Working Group on Censuses
- 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).
  - Workshop on the basic KTN tool and VSS (Mexico City, 12 and 13 June 2012).
  - Course on using administrative records for statistical purposes (Mexico City, 18-22 June 2012).
- (l) Administration of grant funding from the World Bank: *Grant Agreement TF093236* (used in 2010-2012):

Table 1  
**BUDGET SPENT**

<b>Category 1: Consultancy services (US\$ 190,000)</b>	<b>Amount in dollars</b>
- Coordination, management, administration, operations and communications	63 880.09
- Information and communications technologies	37 347.28
- Translation services	86 824.40
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>188 051.77</b>
<b>Category 2: Training and workshops (US\$ 105,000)</b>	
- Workshop of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics	23 564.91
- Workshop of the Working Group on Censuses	33 180.05
- International workshop on the basic KTN tool and VSS	21 363.14
- Course on using administrative records for statistical purposes	25 284.06
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>103 392.16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>291 443.93</b>

The grant funding was fully used by June 2012, so efforts are being made to raise new funds for the Network. In May 2012, a request for financing was sent to the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building. This request has passed through to a second stage of the selection process.

Table 2  
**PURPOSE OF RESOURCES**

	<b>Amount requested (dollars)</b>
<b>Category 1: Consultancy services</b>	100 000
Support for the structure of KTN and coordination of knowledge transfer activities with the national statistical offices in the region	
- Support for coordination, management, administration, operations and communications of the Network's activities	82 000
- Support for information and communications technologies and facilitating web hosting for the KTN portal	7 000
- Translation services	11 000
<b>Category 2: Training and workshops</b>	250 000
Support for implementation of the SCA training programme and the Network's knowledge transfer activities	
- Three training activities in 2013	120 000
- Three training activities in 2014	130 000
<b>Total amount</b>	<b>350 000</b>

### 3. Participation of member countries and working groups in the Network

The commitment and engagement of the countries are still insufficient and uneven. Only 12 national statistical offices and two international agencies have shared their knowledge transfer activities. The KTN members' participation and degree of commitment has been diminishing. The countries' initial enthusiasm needs to be recovered, and they need to make a greater contribution to achieving the targets.

The training activities in which the countries participate the most are seminars, workshops and courses organized with donor funding. In general, these meetings provide opportunities for sharing valuable experiences and for learning. They usually have working documents to serve as a basis for discussion, and often reports, conclusions and recommendations are prepared. However, sometimes the working documents, presentations and other information which would represent useful additions to the Network's specialized collection is not made available.

Since the countries tend not to use virtual communication and work tools, the Network's programme for 2012-2013 includes broadening the use of the KTN portal, increasing the members' participation in the virtual discussion platforms available (Red Social RTC, the forum and You Tube) and the use of RTC A DISTANCIA, which can be used as collaborative sites for holding virtual meetings and workshops, and for communications between members of the Conference.

From the point of view of KTN, it is essential that the 13 working groups of the Conference share their activities, so that the Network can become a real means for communication and support for the working groups.

The tools are available on the KTN portal [online]<http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org>.

Content that helps to level statistical development in the region should be shared by all national statistical offices and international agencies in the region. KTN is a forum for the exchange of experience and learning: it is important to strengthen the mobilization of statistical knowledge.

Over the period 2009-2013, a total of 274 knowledge transfer activities from 14 countries and international agencies that participate in SCA-ECLAC and operate in the region, were entered in the KTN portal. However, given that the Conference's membership includes 48 member countries and a large number of international agencies, a much higher number of knowledge transfer activities could be shared.

The table below shows the number of knowledge transfer activities disseminated through the KTN portal during the reporting period, by country and institution:

The greatest contributions have been made by: the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute, with 25%, followed by the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Ecuador, with 19%; the National Statistical Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic, with 13.5%; the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, with 11%; and the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Spain, with 9%; the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, with 6.2%; and Paraguay, with 4%. These figures show a high concentration, since over 87% of the knowledge transfer activities disseminated through the KTN portal were provided by just seven countries. The Network would be tremendously strengthened if every member country and international agency were to share knowledge transfer activities.

Table 3  
**KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER ACTIVITIES DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KTN PORTAL  
 BY COUNTRY, 2009-2013**

<b>Country/Agency</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brazil	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)	68
Ecuador	National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC)	51
Dominican Republic	National Statistical Office (ONE)	37
Mexico	National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)	29
Spain	National Statistical Institute (INE)	26
Colombia	National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)	17
Paraguay	Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC)	11
Argentina	National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC)	6
Peru	National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI)	6
Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of ECLAC	...	5
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	National Institute of Statistics (INE)	5
Panama	National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)/Comptroller General of the Republic	4
Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)	...	3
Uruguay	National Institute of Statistics (INE)	2
Chile	National Institute of Statistics (INE)	2
Anguilla	Statistics Department (ASD)	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>274</b>

With regard to the network of experts, during the period KTN incorporated 345 experts from just 11 countries. All SCA member countries must participate to enable the Network to create synergies and share the knowledge available in the region. National statistical offices should participate more actively by including their own experts in the Network and inviting specialists in statistical topics from other government offices that generate official information, as well as researchers from training centres and even scholars from universities. This could broaden the network of experts to cover many more areas of statistical knowledge and to serve its purposes.

Only three of the 13 working groups of SCA-ECLAC have shared documents and support materials on the KTN portal.<sup>2</sup> The coordinators and members of the working groups must therefore be urged to share information and experiences, to consolidate the Network as a means of communication and support for their own activities and those of other stakeholders in the themes of the Conference.

During 2011-2012 the portal had 10,171 visits, of which 4,702 were individuals who had visited more than once and 5,469 were one-time visitors. This may be due to various causes: (i) the KTN portal is not adequately disseminated among national statistical offices; (ii) the information on the site does not interest the visitor; or (iii) the KTN members are not actively participating in the electronic media for information sharing.

<sup>2</sup> The working groups on gender, on censuses and on environmental statistics, which shared information from seminars and working meetings in the 2011-2012 period.

The table below shows the most visited sections of the KTN portal in 2011-2012 for both English and Spanish languages.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Knowledge transfer activities	53
Network of experts	32
Network of training centres	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

During 2011-2012, 19 of the 48 member countries of the Conference have visited the portal at least once; of these, only 12 have participated actively in sharing training activities.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of visits to the portal</b>
Mexico	5 075
Spain	1 528
Colombia	399
Dominican Republic	263
Ecuador	200
Peru	168
Argentina	165
Chile	132
Costa Rica	113
El Salvador	100
Brazil	92
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	72
Panama	69
Guatemala	62
Paraguay	39
Honduras	38
Uruguay	38
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	25
Nicaragua	19

#### **4. Proposals and recommendations for strengthening KTN**

Although some countries have shown notable engagement, the commitment and cooperation of the rest of the members of SCA-ECLAC is still insufficient and uneven. The countries have participated most in seminars, workshops and courses organized with donor funding. These meetings all provide opportunities for sharing valuable experiences and for learning, as reflected in documents and support material, but often the knowledge or experience acquired is not shared and so cannot be made available and disseminated through the KTN portal.

To grow in strength, KTN needs its members to participate in the following actions:

- All national statistical offices of member countries of the Conference and participating international agencies in the region must contribute knowledge transfer activities, documents and experts, using the electronic media available on the portal.
- The use of KTN must be promoted within national statistical offices, and among the statistical community and research centres in the region.
- It is necessary to foster the active involvement of government agencies, academia and international agencies in promoting knowledge transfer activities and in conducting training in statistics.
- The request for new funding would best be made by the national statistical office which replaces INEGI as technical secretariat of KTN, since that office will be in the position of executing the fresh resources.