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Seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the
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**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK FOR
STATISTICAL TRAINING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2008-2009**

A. BACKGROUND

The substantive issue examined by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its third meeting was human resources training and education: towards a strategic vision. The Strategic Plan 2005-2015¹ proposed for the Conference by the Executive Committee was also adopted at the same meeting. One of the goals set out in its preliminary version was to improve the management of human resources, while observing strict criteria for quality in the recruitment of professional and technical staff in the region, and promoting their ongoing training and education. The Conference set up six working groups to plan and coordinate the activities needed to fulfil the goals set for the biennium, including the Working Group on Human Resource Education and Training.² This Group was created to develop a specific project for strengthening education and training for the national statistical systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the period 2006-2007, the Working Group prepared a proposal to set up a knowledge transfer network for training in official statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and this proposal was presented at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, held on 26 and 27 July 2007.³ The Conference adopted the Working Group's proposal and requested the Executive Committee to examine and approve the first biennial work programme of the network. The following countries were designated as members of the Council for the administration of the knowledge transfer network: Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico, while Spain was appointed as its coordinator.⁴

The knowledge transfer network and its training programme

The Knowledge Transfer Network is conceived as a regional public good whose mission is to strengthen the capacity of countries to generate, analyse and disseminate official statistics, by fostering the transfer of the most accurate information available. In addition, the network is considered to be the most appropriate mechanism for coordinating the action of existing national centres and programmes, since the information and communications channels it creates facilitate the optimum use of available resources.

The training programme of the knowledge transfer programme is aimed primarily at strengthening knowledge transfer and sharing of experiences at an intermediate and advanced level. To that end, the focus of the activities of the training programme is on training official statisticians who will be able to use the knowledge acquired to replicate the statistical exercises at the national and subregional levels.

In accordance with the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 adopted by the Conference, the training programme of the Knowledge Transfer Network also seeks to contribute to the development and full potential of human talent by promoting innovative methodologies, technologies and techniques in management and, thereby to improve the quality of the basic official information produced and disseminated; at the same time, it seeks to further the harmonization and integration of statistics in the region to make them increasingly comparable and reliable, and to foster the active and coordinated participation of countries in the international statistical agenda.

¹ LC/L.2293(CEA.2005/3).

² This Working Group is made up of Argentina, Bolivian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Spain (the group leader), and the United States.

³ Document DDR/1 [online] <http://www.eclac.org/deype/publicaciones/xml/1/28931/DDR1e.pdf>.

⁴ See resolution 5(IV), Report of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2795).

In preparing the programme, the Council has borne in mind the following basic targets:

- (1) Observance of the best international standards for the training of official statisticians.
- (2) Coordination and cooperation between countries and with international organizations.
- (3) Quality innovative management of the process and statistical outputs.
- (4) Mobilization of resources.

The Council has duly consulted the other working groups of the Statistical Conference with respect to the studies that might have an impact on training; similarly, it has contacted various international organizations in connection with the training courses scheduled to be held in different countries.

In accordance with paragraph 52 of document DDR/1 presented at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the ECLAC secretariat has included in section 2 of this document the programme of education and training activities for the period 2008-2009. This programme is based on courses made available to the knowledge transfer network by the different countries and international bodies in keeping with the guidelines of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Conference; the requirements described by the countries; thematic coordination; the capacity of the host country in areas proposed; and the document entitled "Proposal for the creation of a Knowledge Transfer Network (KTR) for training in official statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, SCA-ECLAC Working Group on Human Resources and Training", which was presented at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. A detailed description of the courses is also available from the secretariat.

The design of the 2008-2009 programme seeks to combine, as far as possible, the modalities for face-to-face, mixed and distance training, which may apply depending on the number of applicants for each activity, the curriculum objective, the content and the availability of experts, teachers and instructors, as well as the infrastructure and available resources.

In order to report on the supply of statistical education and training in the region, sections 3 and 4 contain a list of courses organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA).

All the activities of the 2008-2009 programme will be conducted in one or other of the official languages of ECLAC.

Several pilot experiments have been carried out since the network was established. These include the following: a course in national accounting, organized in October by the International and Ibero-American Foundation of Administration and Public Policies and the National Institute of Statistics (FIIAPP-INE) in conjunction with the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico; a course in tourism statistics, organized in November by INEGI of Mexico and taught by experts from the National Statistical Institute of Spain and the course on evaluation and indicators for quality measurement, organized by DANE of Colombia in November.

Beneficiary countries

The programme is intended primarily for official statisticians from Latin American and Caribbean countries. As an exceptional measure, however, official statisticians from other countries outside the region may, if need be, be admitted to the courses.

Applications

The country organizing each course, with the supervision of the network secretariat, will be responsible for coordinating the applications received and will provide well in advance information on the procedure to follow.

Whenever the number of applications exceeds the number of available places, the organizing country, with support if necessary from the Council of the network, will be responsible for establishing selection criteria.

Financing

The execution of the activities of the network training programme for 2008-2009 will depend on the financial resources available.⁵ Like any other regional public good and as mentioned in the proposal adopted at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Knowledge Transfer Network will need to obtain funding from international agencies and donor countries to guarantee its existence and the execution of the training programmes.

In addition to the educational activities proposed under the 2008-2009 programme for promoting training in the region, there are other courses available to the network for which funding could be available.

Measures proposed to the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

In accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 5(IV) adopted at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the council of the knowledge transfer network proposes that the Executive Committee should:

- (1) Approve the training programme 2008-2009, which is presented in section 2 of this document.
- (2) Request that, as a regional public good, the Knowledge Transfer Network should receive sufficient financing for the implementation of its training programmes.
- (3) Promote the coordination of training activities in the region through the Network.
- (4) Request that ECLAC should set up a virtual portal for use by the network.

⁵ According to studies conducted in 2006, the average cost per student is estimated at between US\$ 300 and US\$ 400 per day. This estimate was made on the basis of the total costs of the training activities of selected ECLAC countries, including those derived from the airfares, accommodation, subsistence, medical insurance and other expenses for students and teaching staff.

TRAINING PROGRAMME OF THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK, 2008-2009

Organizing agency	Title	Place	Date	Availability of funding
Argentina: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC)	Preparatory work for the 2010 round of censuses	Buenos Aires, Argentina or any other ECLAC country	July/August 2008	No
Brazil: Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) (National School for Statistical Sciences/ Brazilian Association of Education/ Universities)	Survey sampling and methodology	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)	21-23 November 2008	No
Chile: National Institute of Statistics (INE)	Training in statistics	Santiago (Chile)	To be confirmed	Tuition fees
Colombia: Andean Centre for Higher Studies (CANDANE)	Quality of statistical data	Bogotá (Colombia)	2nd semester 2008	No
Colombia: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), CANDANE	Diploma course in gender statistics and indicators	Bogotá (Colombia)	2nd semester 2008	No
Colombia: DANE-CANDANE	International course on satellite accounts	Bogotá (Colombia)	2nd semester 2008	No
Spain: National Statistical Office (INE)	Course in quality and modernization	Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)	January 2008	Yes
Spain: INE	Course in national accounting	Madrid (Spain)	2008	Yes
Spain: INE	Course in industrial indicators	Madrid (Spain)	2008	Yes
Spain: INE	Course in classifications and records	Madrid (Spain)	2008	Yes

Organizing agency	Title	Place	Date	Availability of funding
Spain: INE, Institute for Fiscal Studies (IEF), Distance Education Centre for Economic and Technological Development (CEDDET)	Distance course on business surveys	Online course	2008	Yes
Spain: INE, IEF, CEDDET	Distance course on household surveys	Online course	2008	Yes
Spain: INE	Course on the consumer price index	Madrid (Spain)	2009	Yes
Spain: INE	Course on data collection for business surveys	AECI Centre	2009	Yes
Italy: National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)	Quality of data: management, measurement and information	Rome (Italy) or other ECLAC country	From September 2008	Rome: airfare or accommodation and board Other ECLAC country: expert expenses ISTAT
Jamaica: University of Technology (UTECH)	Certified course in social and economic statistics	Jamaica (West Indies)	To be confirmed	No
Mexico: INEGI	International workshop on spatial management of sociodemographic and economic information	Mexico	1-12 September 2008 or 18-29 May 2009	To be confirmed
Mexico: INEGI	First international course in mathematical demographics	Mexico	6-17 October 2008	To be confirmed
Peru: National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI)	Course-workshop: Estimation of standards of living and poverty	Lima (Peru)	March 2008	Tuition fees
Dominican Republic: National Statistical Office (ONE)	Diploma course in demographic analysis	Dominican Republic	To be confirmed	No
United States, Bureau of Labor Statistics	International training in labour statistics	Washington (United States)	To be confirmed	No
United States, Bureau of the Census	Analysis and publication	Depending on demand	Depending on demand	No
United States: Bureau of the Census	Census documentation, preparation and planning	Depending on demand	Depending on demand	No

PROGRAMME OF COURSES OFFERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) 2008 ^a

Organizing agency	Title	Place	Date	Availability of funding
International Monetary Fund	Course on balance-of-payments statistics	Joint Regional Training Center for Latin America (BTC) Brazil	31 March - 4 April 2008	Yes Travel costs, accommodation and board, but by invitation
International Monetary Fund	Course on public financial statistics	Joint Regional Training Center for Latin America (BTC) Brazil	3 - 14 November 2008	Yes Travel costs, accommodation and board, but by invitation
International Monetary Fund	Course on monetary and financial statistics	Joint Regional Training Center for Latin America (BTC) Brazil	17 November - 5 December 2008	Yes Travel costs, accommodation and board, but by invitation
International Monetary Fund	Course on quarterly national accounts	Joint Regional Training Center for Latin America (BTC) Brazil	8 - 19 December 2008	Yes Travel costs, accommodation and board, but by invitation
International Monetary Fund	Course on balance-of-payments statistics	IMF headquarters (Washington, D.C.) and distance teaching	12 May - 20 June 2008	
International Monetary Fund	Course on public financial statistics	IMF headquarters (Washington, D.C.) and distance teaching	3 March - 4 April 2008	
International Monetary Fund	Course on national account statistics	IMF headquarters (Washington, D.C.) and distance teaching	5 May - 6 June 2008	

^a Includes scheduled activities for 2008 in the area of statistics.

PROGRAMME OF COURSES OF THE CENTRE FOR LATIN AMERICAN MONETARY STUDIES (CEMLA) 2008 ^a

Organizing agency	Title	Place	Date	Availability of funding
CEMLA	National account methodology (Central American Monetary Council -CONMONECA)	Central America	1st quarter 2008	No, but there are no tuition fees
CEMLA	Course on monetary and financial statistics (CONMONECA)	Central America	2nd quarter 2008	No, but there are no tuition fees
CEMLA	Course on the autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA)	Brazil (to be confirmed)	2nd quarter 2008	No, but there are no tuition fees
CEMLA	Course on balance-of-payments statistics	To be decided	3rd quarter 2008	No, but there are no tuition fees
CEMLA	Course on monetary and finance statistics	To be decided	3rd quarter 2008	No, but there are no tuition fees
CEMLA	Course on balance-of-payments statistics (CONMONECA)	Central America	4th quarter 2008	No, but there are no tuition fees
CEMLA	Course on the flow of inter-sectoral funds (CONMONECA)	Central America	4th quarter 2008	No, but there are no tuition fees

^a Includes the activities scheduled for 2008 in the area of statistics.

Two or three places in the training courses for central bank officials being planned by CEMLA for 2008 could be offered to officials from national statistical institutes interested in these technical areas.

CEMLA could organize two training seminars with personnel from the national statistical institutes as well as from the central banks: the first, in order to coordinate activities relating to national accounts at the country level, and the second, on the issue of international remittances.