



**Workshop on Data Compilation and application  
of methodological concepts  
Amman, 28 October – 2 November 2007**

**MEDSTAT II programme: Introduction and  
latest developments**

(Henri Tyrman – Key Expert on external trade in goods and  
services statistics – MEDSTAT II Lot 2)



# MEDSTAT II programme

## Outline :

1. What is MEDSTAT
2. Main Objectives
3. Work programme



## MEDSTAT II: A programme based on strong foundations

- Statistical cooperation programme between EU and 10 Mediterranean countries
- 3 years programme: 2006-2008
- Euro-Mediterranean partnership based on a political and strategic framework
  - Barcelona process : Free trade area in 2010
  - European Neighbourhood Policy
  - Bilateral agreements
- Achievements from MEDSTAT I (1996-2003)



# A complex project

- 10 partner countries: *Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey*
- 11 sectors of interventions : Transport, Tourism, Energy, Environment, National Accounts, External trade in goods and services, Agriculture, Social, Migrations, IT, Training
- 16 Long Term Experts
- Extensive scope for actions (Missions, Events..)
- Complex institutional framework (DC, TF, WG;  
3 Lots : Equipment, Horizontal activities, Sectorial activities)



## MEDSTAT : External Trade Sector Main Objectives :

- Ensuring a continued methodological harmonisation
- Designing a road map for each partner country
- Modernising the external trade statistics data production process
- Providing timely information between EU and MPC
- Increasing data quality and data analysis (mirror exercises)
- Providing users with the information necessary for the analysis of a free trade area



# MEDSTAT : External Trade Sector Main Objectives :

- Synergies with other sectors : National Accounts, Tourism, Energy, Transport...
- Synergies with other international programmes (UNSD, ESCWA) necessary:
  - to prevent duplication of actions
  - to take in account limited resources in partner countries
  - to extend the field of expertise

➔ 2 Combined Workshops



# MEDSTAT : External Trade Sector

## Main Types of actions

- **Regional**
  - Study visits
  - Workshops
  - Training Course
  - Task Force
  - Data transmission
  - Publications
- **Sub-regional**
  - Working groups
- **Bilateral technical assistance**
  - Trade indices, Validation tools, Quality assessment ...



## MEDSTAT : External Trade Sector main actions already carried out

- Orientation missions : from April to July 2006
- Sector Report : October 2006
- First task force : 14-15 March 2007
- Definition of a Work programme





## Main Conclusions of the sector report

- Basic information on trade in goods and services is generally provided in good conditions (especially for aggregated indicators).
- Significant differences in MED countries situation: various organisations, unequal application of international concepts and definitions, lack of harmonisation, various level of collection, validation and dissemination processes.
- Several frequent common problems: non inclusion of military goods; limited use of EU Combined Nomenclature of goods; lack of user friendly IT tools for validation, dissemination, trade indices calculation; limited use of seasonal adjustment.



## MEDSTAT : External Trade Sector main actions already carried out

- Study visits on trade in goods : France (April), UK (June)
- Publications: Euro-Mediterranean Bulletin , Statistics in Focus
- Asymmetry studies: Jordan, Egypt
- Data transmission of detailed data : ongoing
- Definition of a simplified quality report



# MEDSTAT : External Trade Sector main actions to be carried out

## REGIONAL actions :

- Training course on external trade concepts and practices: December 2007
- Task force : January 2008, final TF in November 2008
- Workshop on Trade Indices and Dissemination Tools : *in cooperation with UNSD and ESCWA (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2007)*
- Study visits and Workshop on Trade in services statistics
- Training course on seasonal adjustment
- Implementation of periodic data exchange procedure between EU and MPC
- Publications



# MEDSTAT : External Trade Sector main actions to be carried out

## **Sub-regional and Bilateral actions :**

- Work on Asymmetry studies and Quality assessment
- Tools for validation
- Technical Assistance on Trade Indices



# Common MEDSTAT/UN/ESCWA Workshop on Trade Indices and Dissemination

- **Workshop hosted by MEDSTAT**
- **Agenda would contain among others the following elements**

## Calculation of Export and Import Price Indices (XMPI)

- Overview of the draft XMPI Manual (IMF presentation)
- XMPI calculation using Price Surveys (Invited country presentation)
- XMPI calculation using Unit Values (Invited country presentations)
- XMPI calculation in an international organisation
- General Discussion

## Calculation of Trade indicators

- Globalization indicators for Trade (OECD or UNCTAD presentation)
- Calculation of Trade indicators (Invited country presentation)
- General Discussion

## Dissemination tools and practises

- Dissemination rules of aggregated data
- Dissemination of detailed data
- Web tools



Regional Programme of Statistics in the Mediterranean Region MEDSTAT Phase II

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## General Remarks ...

- Heavy work programme which must take in account limited resources available
- Time frame of the programme is short
- Adjustments are needed in certain areas and in certain countries
- Cooperation needed with UNSD and UN/ESCWA





Thank you for your attention!

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**MEDSTAT II – Lot 2**

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