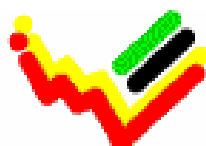




STAC
Statistics in Action
Report from a course held in Maputo,
Mozambique,
31 March-16 May 2003

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List of abbreviations

CO	Scanstat Coordination Office in Statistics Denmark
Danida	Danish International Development Assistance
DKK	Danish Kroner
DSt	Statistics Denmark
EUR	European Euro
INE	Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Mozambique
INE-P	Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Portugal
MZM	Mozambique Meticais
NOK	Norwegian Kroner
Scanstat	Consortium between Statistics Denmark, Statistics Norway and Statistics Sweden
SCB	Statistics Sweden
SEK	Swedish Kronor
SSB	Statistics Norway
USD	US Dollars
ZAR	South African Rand

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The major reason for the mission was to conduct a STAC (Statistics in Action) course. The participants were given experience and knowledge from all phases of a survey. We recommend that the course be given frequently during the following years. In forthcoming courses, data should be based on a stratified random sample, and someone from INE should be engaged as facilitator of the course.

2 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the mission was to conduct a STAC (Statistics in Action) course. The course presents and carries out all phases of a survey. The facilitators, who also are the authors of this report, are experienced facilitators. The course has been held for many years and in many countries. The form of the course has remained approximately the same, and evaluations show that the course satisfies its objectives well.

3 ACTIVITIES DURING THE MISSION

3.1 Purpose of the course

A STAC (Statistics in Action) course was conducted at INE in Maputo with participants from the said Office and from the following ministries: M. Plano e Financas, M. Agricultura e D. Rural, M. Saúde, M. Ens. Superior e Tec., M. de trabalho, M. de Pescas e M. de Educacao in the period 31 March-16 May 2003. More details concerning dates and contents are to be found in Section 3 and Appendix 4.

The purpose of the course is to present and carry out all phases of a survey in the correct order, see Appendix 5. In particular it demonstrates how the different phases of a survey are inter-connected. In order to present the full picture, a small-scale survey is performed during the course and the relevant statistical theory and practical problems are discussed against the background of the actual survey. The topic of the survey in Maputo 2003 was "Relatório – Uso do Tempo em Actividade Laboral". INE is planning to introduce a system for reporting time use for its staff, and to address this task successfully, it is essential to know something about the views of the employees. A pilot project amongst INE employees was thus commissioned by The President of INE, Mr. Loureiro. The client brief is presented in Appendix 3. The results of the survey are presented in the report "Relatório – Uso do Tempo em Actividade Laboral", which is found as Appendix 1.

3.2 Participants and teachers

A list of participants appears in Appendix 2. The STAC group comprised 13 participants. On completion of the course, participants received a certificate.

Throughout the course there were facilitators from Statistics Sweden and from Statistics Norway. Gunilla Davidsson co-facilitated weeks one and two, Tor Bengtsson and Per Cronholm co-facilitated weeks three and four. Irene Tuveng and Jon Teigland, Norwegian long-term consultants at INE, participated also as facilitators in week one.

STAC is essentially learning by doing. The course comprises short lectures where the theoretical background of each phase of the survey process is presented. The lectures are accompanied by discussions and practical exercises in small groups comprising about four persons.

3.3 Timetable and material

The course has two main parts. Part One deals with the planning phases of a survey that includes frame construction, sampling, creation and testing of a questionnaire etc. Part Three deals with data processing, tabulation, data analysis and the production of a report. In between the two parts we have the actual data collection. A brief timetable is given below:

Week	Date	Content
1	31/3 - 4/4	The statistical problem, population, sample and variables
2	7/4 – 11/4	Measurement methods, questionnaire, interviewing techniques
	14/4 –30/4	Enumeration, data entry
3	5/5 – 9/5	Data editing, preparation of tables and charts
4	12/5 –16/5	Analytical text, report writing

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It seems as if many of the INE staff are inexperienced in regard to the issues related to the different phases of an actual survey. We consequently recommend that the course be held frequently during the next years.

It should be noted that a stratified random sampling technique is usually used in a normal statistical survey. As the INE staff – the surveyed population - is rather small, the survey in this course was made as a total count. The course would have been more realistic if

data had been sampled from a frame so that a raising factor could have been introduced in the tabulations. In future courses, this aspect should be attended to.

To bridge over the difficulties that occur with facilitators speaking English, a Portuguese-speaking co-facilitator from INE would reduce most of the problems arising during the course.