



**Progress in the Implementation of
ICP Interim Activities and 2017 Cycle**

Regional Reports

MARCH 2018

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AFRICA

1. Data collection periods and reference years

Interim comparison







A launch workshop of the interim ICP-Africa 2015 round was held in Dakar, Senegal, from June 29-July 03, 2015, as well as a re-sit workshop in Lusaka from 3-7 August 2015. During these workshops, a work plan was designed and agreed upon with data collection scheduled to run monthly from August 2015 to July 2016. 41 countries continuously submitted common ICP and CPI basket items from January 2015 to December 2016, while 6 submitted the full ICP basket.

In regard to National Accounts, strategic approaches were implemented to ensure that Africa's specificities were effectively accommodated in the methodologies developed at the global level for global PPP revision. This included training countries' national accounts experts on the Model Report for Expenditure Statistics (MORES) with appropriate techniques to compile the GDP expenditures and split them using specifically designed top-down and bottom-up approaches.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is mindful that the implementation of the Rolling Benchmark Approach (RBA), referred to as ICP 2017, is based on the understanding that ICP regions, including Africa, have conducted interim exercises covering 2016. With respect to Africa region, the ICP 2017 will incorporate data collected through the above interim activities, covering 95 basic headings under household consumption. However, the basic headings coverage was not uniform across countries: out of the 95 basic headings, 79 were covered by at least 26 countries, 14 basic headings were covered by at least 11 countries, whereas there are 2 basic headings for which data was provided by a maximum of 10 countries. These data were validated through bilateral interactions with individual countries, and reviewed at the ICP 2017 cycle launch workshop, which was held in Lusaka from January 29-February 3, 2017.

2017 cycle

Figure 1- Number of countries collecting data per quarter

| | | |
|---------|---|----|
| 2017-Q3 |  | 17 |
| 2017-Q4 |  | 23 |
| 2018-Q1 |  | 50 |
| 2018-Q2 |  | 50 |
| 2018-Q3 |  | 35 |
| 2018-Q4 |  | 25 |

The African comparison covering 50 countries is being sub-coordinated by 2 sub-regional organizations: AFRISTAT with 30 countries under their purview, and COMESA 20. 24 countries (of which 19 from COMESA) started data collection in the last 4 months of 2017. The remaining countries were set to commence in the first quarter of 2018. The convergence of data collection calendars is still expected for the first quarter of current year.

Figure 1 provides the overall distribution of countries per quarter. It shows that by the end of 2018-Q1, all 50 participating countries should have started collecting data. Countries that did not start in 2017-Q1 will proceed with the main price survey so as to cover 4 quarters by 2018-Q3 (35 countries) or 2018-Q4 (25 countries).

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison

The ICP Africa 2015 interim exercise consisted of both retrieval of prices for ICP-CPI common items from countries' CPI databases, as well as ICP specific data collection. During this round, 50 countries fully participated in data collection, of which 47 fully submitted their prices data. These data are yet to be further validated for the PPP calculation. Three countries (Libya, South Sudan and Somaliland) were passive participants that only benefitted from ICP capacity development activities. Of the 47 active participants, 6 countries collected ICP prices and extracted CPI prices for ICP-CPI common items, while 41 countries submitted CPI prices for ICP-CPI common items only. It is also worth noting that 13 countries have national geographical coverage, while in 34 countries, geographical coverage is limited to their capital cities.

2017 cycle

As noted above, the number of participating countries is 50: with 42 already on board (Algeria; Benin; Botswana; Burundi; Cameroon; CAR; Chad; Comoros; Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; Djibouti; Egypt; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Gabon; Ghana; Guinea Bissau; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Sao Tome & Principe; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Seychelles; South Africa; Sudan; Swaziland; Tanzania; Togo; Tunisia; Uganda; Zambia; and Zimbabwe). Those are countries to which funding was disbursed or even if the process is still going on they had already fully committed to collect data.

Institutional arrangements are expected to be completed very soon for the remainder 8 countries: Angola; Burkina Faso; Cape Verde; Congo; Gambia; Guinea Conakry; Madagascar; and Morocco.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison

The abovementioned interim data must be thoroughly reviewed for quality and usability. In this regard, the AfDB is establishing a Regional Expert Group (REG). The ICP Global Implementing Unit will soon be requested to designate experts who will work with the REG at a location yet to be identified in Africa to review the data and make recommendations. We are confident that such data, once carefully scrutinized, will be extrapolated to the 2017 period and used for validation purposes. The first REG meeting is scheduled to be held in late September or early October 2017.

It is also important to note that the biggest obstacle of the ICP 2015 Round implementation in Africa was the limited budget, which resulted in delays in recruiting the additional consultants; organizing the workshops; and providing the needed technical support to countries. Due to limited funds, many countries were only able to collect data for the ICP-CPI common products.

2017 cycle

Overall status of the ICP 2017 cycle is as reported under section 1.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison

Regional operational materials for the 2015 interim exercise were provided to countries during the launch workshop in Dakar in July 2015. The materials comprised of the Reduced list of 556 products representative of the 2011 list; Price data validation tools updated for the 2015 Interim Round requirements (entry sheet, validation and reviewing, etc.); and MORES Template for GDP expenditures estimations.

During the Dakar launch workshop, one of the recommendations was to create a cloud directory, where all experts could download the relevant survey materials. This recommendation was followed up in August 2015 in terms of creating and populating Dropbox¹ and Google Drive which were shared with countries.

2017 cycle

For the ICP 2017 cycle, the AfDB has opted to share operational materials with countries primarily through the cloud. All documents and materials related to ICP 2017 were uploaded on to Google Drive and the links were shared with experts from all the participating countries.

A first link² was shared in February 2017 during the launch workshop in Lusaka. A second link³ was provided during the catch-up workshop held in Abidjan in June 2017. The materials uploaded included all workshop documents, as well as the tools for the main survey and special surveys.

For ease of reference, we created and shared (in August 2017) a third link⁴ in which only operational materials related to price and national accounts activities were stored.

Regarding the main survey, a list of 560 representative products of the African CPI basket was created covering 95 BHs. Price data validation tools were also provided (entry sheet, validation and reviewing, etc.). The ICP-Africa regional team also developed two technical tools to collect data for two BHs that require special attention: Air transports and Electricity. National Accounts and special surveys materials were also provided.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison

The finalization procedure, expected outcomes, as well as related timeline will be decided by the REG at their first meeting in April 2018. The REG will also determine whether and how average prices and other comparison results will be computed using prices collected during the interim exercise as well as eligible prices from CPI databases related to 2017. AfDB requested all countries to submit prices for CPI-ICP common products for all 2017 months. Such prices are being received by AfDB.

¹ <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gel3udh2auh5ubp/AAD9ZMsz412Nmi5BapR2G-s2a?dl=0>

² <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB0AEI1FV5y8Nd3ZMZEc1RmVxWWM?usp=sharing>

³ <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB0AEI1FV5y8NR0s1YS1nX1RONU0?usp=sharing>

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB0AEI1FV5y8NbEJheWhUdHNWw0k?usp=sharing>

2017 cycle

In the ongoing ICP 2017 cycle, national accounts work is carried out in two phases, phase 1 corresponding to the latest year for which official GDP is published, and phase 2 for the reference year 2017. For the latest year, activities leading to the finalization of GDP splitting include: completing and validating the MORES, compiling and reviewing the related data and narrative reports, and finalizing the MORES (July 2018). After estimating the GDP expenditure aggregates, the same steps for the latest year will be followed for the reference year, and finalized in July 2019. Compensation of Government employee data collection will be organized by national accounts experts as part of the process of splitting GDP for 2017, and data thereof, will be declared final in December 2018.

The status of processing the MORES for the latest year is quite encouraging. So far 12 countries have submitted theirs for 2013 (Djibouti), 2014 (Rwanda), 2015 (Algeria; Burundi; Egypt; Sudan; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zimbabwe), and 2016 (Morocco; Mozambique; and Seychelles).

For the main survey, it is expected that data collected during the 4th quarter of 2018 in AFRISTAT-coordinated countries, will be submitted to the AfDB by the end of December 2018 or even in January 2019. This implies that data validation for all countries (both COMESA and AFRISTAT) will run until March 2019. A validation workshop for COMESA countries is scheduled for July 2018.

Preliminary results will be calculated from May to July 2019, and will be reviewed by the REG, whose terms of reference will be expanded and its composition revised accordingly. The level of detail of the results, as to which GDP components they will cover, will depend on the categories of data whose validation would have completed by then.

Figure 2 - Data submission as of February 28

| | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Year 2017 |
|----------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Afristat | | | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Comesa | 12 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 19 |
| Total | 12 | 1 | 18 | 4 | 24 |

In terms of data submission, AfDB has received data for validation from 5 AFRISTAT countries and 19 COMESA countries. Monthly numbers of countries that submitted such data are shown in Figure 2.

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison

Until the REG has pronounced itself on the interim data, nothing can be said about the release of comparison results.

2017 cycle

The preliminary results will be published in electronic form only.

The AfDB will strive to issue a press release of the final results in a summary form (at GDP level) in December 2019. The main tables of results will be published in electronic form in January 2020, and the final report will be published in July 2020.

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

The AfDB endeavors to build the necessary knowledge and reasonable levels of statistical capacity that should enable the mainstreaming of ICP activities into regular price and national accounts activities of the National Statistical Offices in Regional Member Countries. The rationale is due to the evolving results agenda at national, regional and international levels. Agenda 2030 provides the impetus for regular PPPs and indeed AfDB's own High 5s. The ability of National Statistical Offices to provide the requisite data over time on a relatively high frequency basis is central to the effective monitoring of the above. Whilst the emphasis remains on ensuring basic data flows from the countries as and when required, the other equally important dimension is consistent amplification of the policy relevance of PPPs to policy makers at all levels. Putting the users of the PPPs on focus will naturally raise the profile of PPPs and justify the basic data flow.

Based on bilateral conversations with countries, we know that they are receptive and willing to turn ICP into a permanent program. This will require developing an ICP sub-strategy under the new Strategy for the harmonization of statistics in Africa (SHaSA-2). The ICP strategy will entail:

Overall strategic line:

- Developing guidelines for the inclusion of ICP in National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and
- Helping countries to design their ICP strategy and including it in the NSDS.

ICP-CPI integration:

- Harmonizing concepts and definitions across the ICP and (H)CPIs;
- Identifying a group of 7 countries to pilot the integration of (H)CPI-ICP, before onward extension to all African countries. The choice of countries must be based on equitable representation of the different sub-regions, with preference being granted to countries that will be developing/updating their NSDS;
- Supporting the 7 pilot countries to ensure that the integration is aligned with the country's development policy framework, that relevant activities are carried out under a legal framework, and that the necessary conceptual framework, methodological framework, and quality assurance framework are developed/used as guiding principles for the activities; and
- Including an ICP component in the Country's NSDS.

ICP-National Accounts integration:

- Using the MORES approach to provide a quality assurance analysis on the benchmark data used in the rebasing of GDP for countries;
- Developing procedures to cross-validate expenditure values of selected basic headings; and
- Checking GDP consistency between the production and the expenditure approaches.

Price-Expenditure consistency and GDP improvement:

- Combining rental survey data, population and housing census results, household survey results and other administrative records to estimate expenditure values for 1104111 - Actual rentals for housing and 1104211 - Imputed rentals for housing;
- Combining water prices, population and housing census results, household survey results and other administrative records to estimate expenditure values for 1104411- Water supply;
- Combining electricity prices, population and housing census results, household survey results and other administrative records to estimate expenditure values for 1104511 - Electricity;
- Combining existing prices and adjusted volume of dwellings to estimate expenditure values for maintenance and other housing related services;
- Combining existing prices and relevant population of students to estimate expenditure values for private education;
- Combining compensation of employees' data, administrative records and government finance statistics to estimate expenditure values for basic headings related to government employee compensation; and
- Estimating expenditure values for machinery and equipment (M&E) basic headings through commodity balances.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

The dissemination of the PPPs needs improvement and conduct as a continuous process across the AfDB and the regional member countries. Successful dissemination requires methodological appreciation across producers and users. The AfDB acknowledges the efficacy of bringing users and producers together to foster the necessary levels of statistical knowhow that should support and justify the continuous production of PPPs. Advocating for the policy relevance of PPPs as highlighted elsewhere cannot be overemphasized, it is indispensable.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

The AfDB will continue to provide the necessary technical support to the regional member countries by way of demand-driven technical assistance missions, follow up missions and collective workshops for all participating countries. As part of this process, the AfDB will enlist the services of qualified and competent practitioners to spearhead the special surveys. The AfDB also looks forward to identifying a reputable practitioner to lead the computation of PPPs, and another to lead the report writing process. The AfDB ICP team (made up of regular staff and long-term consultants) will play active roles across the 2017 ICP cycle activities.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

Under this ICP 2017 cycle, the AfDB is providing financial support to participating countries for data collection via two intermediary sub-regional organizations, AFRISTAT and COMESA. As of now, the AfDB has disbursed USD 1,480,586.37 to COMESA, and USD 1,660,693.42 to AFRISTAT.

All 50 countries received protocols of agreement or special contract proposals from their respective sub-regional organization (AFRISTAT or COMESA).

11. Overall regional risks

In the ICP 2011 Round, Africa had 50 participating countries and we aim to maintain or improve this impressive participation level in the 2017 cycle. Efforts are being made to avert the risk of further slippage in the commencement of data collection in countries that are expected to collect data in 2018-Q1. Such efforts include and are not limited to:

- undertaking between March and April 2018, technical assistance missions to selected countries such as Angola, Cape Verde, Congo and Nigeria. Similar technical assistance missions have been already organized to: Rwanda (August 2017); Ghana and Egypt (January-February 2018); Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Congo (February 2018);
- interacting with the countries on a weekly basis, and even on a daily basis with some of them. Data and narrative report templates were developed by AfDB which are being used to address data issues;
- facilitating a national accounts workshop for AFRISTAT countries (Bamako, October 2017);
- organizing ICP sessions at a statistical capacity building workshop on computing the harmonized consumer price index (HCPI) and purchasing power parities (PPPs) for ECOWAS and UEMOA member states, Lomé, Togo, from 16-20 April 2018;
- preparing the first validation workshop for COMESA countries to be held in July 2018.

ASIA

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

Interim comparison:

The Asia and the Pacific region is currently implementing a 2016 PPP Update exercise.

Household: Data collection for the update exercise was intended for July 2015-June 2016. However, most countries could not begin data collection as planned. In consultation with the countries, data collection was extended to cover the full year 2016. Thus, all 20 participating countries collected data from January-December 2016, except for the Philippines where prices for August and September 2016 could not be collected. Data collection was restricted to the capital city for a reduced list of household items from the 2011 ICP round and updated for fast evolving items.

Non-Household: Only a one-time price collection for the non-household items was conducted for machinery and equipment (M&E) and construction materials in capital cities. Most countries collected prices during October-December 2016 for the reference year 2016.

2017 cycle:

Household: Price collection for household items was scheduled for April 2017-March 2018. Only about half of the countries could begin the survey in April. Others started between April and July (Bhutan). In view of delays in starting the price collection in some countries, price collection was extended to cover a 12-month cycle for each country. Thus, prices will be extrapolated to reference year 2017 in all cases.

Non-Household: Data collection for special surveys will be conducted in Q1/Q2 2018 with reference year 2017.

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison:

Twenty-one economies were originally participating in the 2015-2016 PPP updating. However, Myanmar was not able to sustain price collection due to a change in its ICP National Implementing Agency (NIA). Thus, only 20 economies are now included in the PPP updating.

2017 cycle:

Twenty-two economies confirmed their participation by signing a letter of no objection (LNO). A Framework of Partnership, between ADB and NIAs, defines their respective roles and responsibilities in ICP implementation at the regional and country levels.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison:

Price collection surveys with reference year 2016 have been completed in all participating countries. A series of regional data validation workshops have been held since 2016. The last was on 1-2 February 2018 where the 2016. Data inconsistencies could not be resolved, and more data cleaning is needed. Data validation will be pursued through bilateral consultation with economies

as ADB continues to evaluate and clean data for outliers/errors, but with the confirmation by the economies concerned. Specific country data problems such as unavailability of price information to represent a basic heading, obvious wrong price data in comparison with 2011 ICP and the 2016-2011 CPI will be communicated to countries by 31 March 2018.

2017 cycle:

In a regional data validation workshop on 2016 PPP Update held in June 2016, the UNSC decisions on the ICP's future and tentative plans for 2017 ICP in Asia and the Pacifica were discussed with the participants. In another workshop in September 2016, guidelines on survey designs and sampling frameworks were presented. In January 2017, an inception meeting of the 2017 ICP with the NIA heads was conducted to apprise them of the 2017 ICP cycle workplan, and its technical and administrative requirements. In a regional workshop in February 2017, the household item list was discussed and subsequently updated based on workshop discussions. This meeting also reviewed the sampling designs proposed by the countries for household price collection.

Price collection surveys for household items started in April 2017 in 12 countries, in May 2017 in another 6 countries, and between June to August 2017 in the remaining 4 countries. In some countries, delays were due to other priorities (like population census in Bhutan, and election duty in Nepal), and in others including the People's Republic of China (PRC) and India, pre-survey preparations and organizing the logistics/training of staff in states and regions required more time. On the request from the government of Myanmar, ADB conducted an in-country 'training of trainers' in Naypyidaw (with price collection field visits in Naypyidaw, Yangon and Mandalay). On the request from the PRC, ADB contributed resource persons to the in-country training of regional/provincial staff. A regional workshop conducted on 4-7 October 2017, validated the prices of household items collected between April-July 2017 but only at the intra-country level since most data were still unvalidated at that time. The workshop also discussed the guidelines and principles on how to price M&E and construction items; and provided an overview of the housing requirements.

The last workshop held on 29-31 January and 3 February 2018 reviewed the household price data for the period for April to September 2017; prices collected for around 60 electronics & software items; and discussed the housing rental survey methodology and dwelling types to be priced, which decided to add more dwellings as representative for countries in Asia-Pacific. Among the agreements were:

- *Household:* Prices will be reviewed for 166 household items (for units of measure issues; deletion of some items such as summer tires; clarification in the product specifications; documentation of the well-known brands priced; prices of originator versus generic pharmaceutical products, etc.) Given that price collection for the 2017 ICP started in April 2017 (and for many countries much later), there will be a need to estimate the prices for ICP reference year January-December 2017. To be able to do this, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at the lowest level of disaggregation will be useful to fill in the gaps for the months for which prices could not be collected due to late start of the surveys.

- *Non-Household (M&E and Construction)*: price surveys will be conducted in Q1 2018. Countries were advised to collect price data to estimate annual averages data for the year 2017 and Q1 2018; and ADB will send the data entry tool to countries by mid-March 2018.
- *Non-Household (Electronics and Software Items)*: Prices of unspecified items were not reviewed during the workshop due to very high variations observed across the countries. Countries were requested to provide make and model for unspecified priced items; and model numbers for specified items.
- *Housing*: Additional housing types suggested by participating economies were discussed and included in the housing rental survey. Housing catalogue, operational guide, metadata questionnaire and Price Collection Tool for the housing rental survey were prepared and sent to countries on 1 March 2018.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison:

Materials on the PPP Update were circulated to economies in June 2015 during the Regional Workshop in Bangkok. The item list for household used was a core (or reduced list) derived from the full list of 2011 ICP round with updates for fast evolving items.

2017 cycle:

Household item list: The list for household items was updated by ADB by reviewing the 2011 ICP, 2016 PPP update, and the Global core lists in January 2017. This list was then circulated to the countries and reviewed during the regional workshop in February 2017. Based on the feedback from the workshop, the household item list was finalized in March 2017 and used for price collection beginning April 2017. During the June/July 2017 and October 2017 regional workshops, a few more items were added to the list based on the initial field experience of the countries. Presently, the household item list is composed of 934 items. Based on the January 2018 workshop discussions, some more revisions may be made. ADB also prepared a “PRICE COLLECTIONS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL: A PRACTICAL GUIDE (Sector Coverage: Household)” which summarizes key concepts of ICP and PPPs and provides guidelines for field operations, including FAQs for reference. The final product catalogue for household items and the guidelines were provided to the countries in May 2017.

Non-Household lists: The June/July 2017 workshop was also utilized to introduce surveys of non-household items for the 2017 ICP. Countries were not agreeable to a proposal of preponement of specialized surveys of non-household items to Q42017 (from planned timing of Q1/Q2 2018). It was, thus, agreed to conduct specialized surveys Q1/Q2 2018 for reference year 2017. Operational materials including the lists of M&E and construction were forwarded to the countries on 14 July 2017 for their review and feedback. Further, the survey forms along with the lists of items for M&E, construction and dwelling were discussed during the 4-7 October 2017 workshop. For M&E items, it was realized that not all specifications may be available for unspecified items. Thus, with the technical advice of a resource person, price determining characteristics were identified which are the minimum specifications that must be met for an item to be considered as an equivalent item. For construction, specifically equipment items, it was suggested to get the same specifications of

related items from the M&E list. Pricing Guidelines and FAQs for Construction, and Pricing Guidelines for Machinery & Equipment were prepared in November 2017.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison:

Price data are expected to be finalized after the validation workshop in February 2018. Results of 2016 PPP Update and publication of report is targeted in the Second Quarter of 2018.

2017 cycle:

Price data for household items, and for non-household items are expected to be finalized by Q1 2019.

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison:

June 2018

2017 cycle:

December 2019 (This will be reviewed at the end of 2018)

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

The evaluation of the 2011 ICP by the Friends of the Chair and subsequent endorsement of the UN Statistical Commission establishing ICP as a permanent program, was communicated to the respective ICP teams during the June 2016 regional workshop. Likewise, ADB's technical assistance program that finances the 2017 ICP regional activities was shared with the participating countries. This paper includes the recommendations of the UNSC on the future of ICP. Subsequently, in the 2017 ICP inception meeting in January 2017, the NIA heads were apprised of these recommendations. The message to incorporate ICP in their regular statistical programs and allocate budget for implementing country level activities is also consistently communicated to countries. Although participating economies recognize the importance of the ICP, they are faced with practical challenges in the ownership of the ICP at the country level and its sustainability. These challenges can be categorized as:

- *Institutional*: The need to integrate the ICP in the regular work programs of the National Statistics Offices (NSO) requires that they identify units within the NSO/agencies in the government that will be responsible for regular data collection for different ICP surveys. Currently, other regular work programs or major statistical exercises such as population census, income-expenditure surveys, business surveys affect ICP operations especially in smaller countries where few data collection staff are required to handle all data collection work.
- *Human*: The units/agencies in the NSO and/or elsewhere assigned for data collection must be provided with sufficient human resources for regular ICP data collection and validation. In most countries, ICP is managed by the price collection units of the NSOs (which are generally small teams) with insufficient staff complement.

- *Financial:* ICP activities need funds for country level operations. In spite of the countries' current efforts at integrating ICP with CPI field operations, these are two different item lists (overlap at most is around 30%) and ICP requires additional surveys for non-household products. To address this concern, ADB has been providing limited financial support to the 'eligible' countries for price collection and for participation of staff of all countries in regional data validation workshops. Moreover, as it is, many developing countries are already faced with resource constraints in carrying out essential/regular statistical operations, while demands for new data (including SDGs monitoring) are increasing.
- *Relevance of ICP at country level:* Increasing awareness among policy makers and data users about the ICP and finding policy relevance of ICP data at the national level is very important. ADB has been advocating sub-national PPP work in the countries through regional and in-country training programs and technical assistance. The Philippines, Viet Nam, India, Malaysia and Thailand have taken steps in this direction. Viet Nam has institutionalized data collection for sub-national PPPs within their CPI program. There is a need for finding more applications of PPPs at the country in government planning and policy making and in research.

These issues need to be seriously considered if ICP is to be established as a permanent and sustainable program that provides good quality data. Methodological innovations that can reduce data collection burden in the ICP-implementing countries need to be undertaken and discussed in the TAG and its Task forces. Lessons from the regional PPP update exercises of 2009 and ongoing 2016 PPP Update in Asia and the Pacific, where prices collected from capital cities for a reduced list of items, can be useful inputs in this direction.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

Specific issues regarding the expansion, dissemination and access of ICP data and metadata need to be clearly identified and discussed with the countries. For example, if dissemination and access is to be expanded to more sub-categories/classes, these should be guided by technical considerations and clarified with the countries.

Proposed data access policy was presented in the last regional workshop held on 29-31 January and 3 February 2018. Some of the feedback/queries from the discussions is stated below:

- In general, there were mixed reactions. Some country participants were open to the idea of greater dissemination while others had concerns. A country expressed that they do not have any issues about providing detailed data provided all countries will also do so.
- Whether the data submissions to ADB and the World Bank and related access as indicated in the policy will be through a formal agreement?
- What is "sub-national"? Does this refer to all sub-national geographical locations covered for prices surveys?
- In making available subnational data concerns were raised on the reliability of sub-national average prices. As ICP focusses on national average prices, subnational prices may not be representative of the price levels. This might also lead to mis-interpretations of data by some users.

- Who will be the owner of the database?
- Some provisions of the data access policy may conflict with the data confidentiality provisions under their statistical laws.
- Will the World Bank or the ADB provide price data to users for gap-filled items and reference BHs?
- Additional work required for the submission of sub-national prices was also raised by some countries.
- What does micro data mean? Is it annual average prices observed from each outlet or individual price quotations? Concerns were raised also on sharing price data for products sold by only single dealers in the country as that violates data confidentiality provisions of the Statistics laws.
- Do NIAs need clearance from the RIAs when providing micro data directly to the users?
- Does “user” refers only to policy makers, researchers from international, regional and national agencies, as well as academic and research institutions? Does this include individual researchers who may not be carrying out the research on behalf of an agency or an institution, rather as part of their own academic interest?
- Workshop discussions highlighted concerns on data reliability and the need to enhance data quality for PPP computation. Thus, access of other users to ICP data can help the countries identify areas of improvement.
- The policy says that that users will share research findings with all stakeholders? Who are the stakeholders?

To seek structured response on the provisions of the proposed data access policy, ADB has developed a questionnaire that was sent to countries on 9 February. Country feedback will be communicated to the ICP Global Unit. It also appears that preparing FAQs will be useful in better understanding the provisions of the policy. ICP Global Unit may consider developing the FAQs.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

The ADB has been providing necessary technical and limited financial support to the ‘eligible’ participating countries. The emphasis is always on building in-country capacity and country ownership of the ICP. While ADB will continue managing much of the regional ICP work, continued technical support of experts from the Global Implementing Unit at the WB in regional data validation workshops will be required as in the past.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

ADB raised US\$ 1.0 million in November 2016 and has now secured additional targeted \$1.5 million under the 2017 ICP technical assistance project. Thus, a total of \$2.5 million is available for the 2017 ICP. With this, ADB hopes to implement regional level activities including providing limited funds to the countries for data collection and equipment purchase. The level of assistance to the countries is more or less similar to 2011 ICP levels. Non-eligible member countries fund their own activities at the country level, but ADB funds their participation in regional workshops. Going

forward it is important that NIAs integrate the ICP price surveys as regular and funded activity through budget. Accordingly, ADB encourages countries to secure government financial support in view of the UNSC's endorsement of the ICP as a permanent program.

11. Overall regional risks

For immediate 2017 ICP implementation: Due to time constraints and pre-survey activities at global, regional and national levels, 2017 ICP price surveys could not begin in January 2017. April 2017 was targeted for beginning of price surveys for households, but nearly half of the 22 participating economies were not able to begin household price collection in April 2017. The data collection for specialized surveys is slated for Q1 and Q2 2018. This poses additional requirement of extrapolating data for full year 2017. Such a situation was not faced in the 2005 and 2011 ICP rounds. Accordingly, data collection period for household items in all countries is extended to cover a full 12-month cycle with the intention to reproject for 2017. The quality of extrapolated data for household and non-household surveys will depend on the availability of appropriate price indices.

There is a risk of sustainability of ICP activities due to human and financial constraints faced by NIAs. In the recent regional workshop many countries indicated constraints on for ICP data collection because of upcoming major statistical exercises. Human and financial constraints were concern for many countries due to multi-tasking by the NIA staff doing regular ICP price surveys and other major statistical exercises (censuses and surveys) leading to delays in the implementation of ICP activities as no additional manpower resources are available for implementing ICP work. Some countries are addressing this issue by engaging contract staff using limited financial support provided by ADB. Some others are trying to make use of CPI data wherever possible.

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

Interim comparison:

2014: full size regional comparison “2014 Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) ICP”

2017 cycle:

Quarters II-IV, 2017

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison:

8 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan)

2017 cycle:

8-10 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan; Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are expected to participate)

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison:

For 2014 CIS ICP, prices were collected for 1920 consumer goods and services and 480 investment goods. The CIS ICP results were linked to 2014 Eurostat-OECD comparisons. The final results for 2014 CIS ICP were published in April 2017. The statistical abstract presenting detailed results was published in June 2017.

2017 cycle:

Two meetings of experts of CIS NSOs were held in 2017 in Moscow:

- Meeting of experts of CIS NSOs with the participation of the World Bank representative was held on April 3-7, 2017 to discuss reconciliation issues of consumer items list, and
- Meeting of experts of CIS NSOs with the participation of the World Bank representative was held on December 12-14, 2017 on discussion of investment items and test PPPs computations. Participants of the CIS ICP regional meeting expressed appreciation for representative of the World Bank's Global ICP Unit participation in this meeting, especially in data improvement inputs, quality requirements, additional price checking and further additional efforts to prove the data quality.

Data collection for consumer goods and services, machinery and equipment goods, and construction materials was finished in 2017. Computations of average annual prices on consumer and investment items are in process now.

In 2018 we plan to hold two meetings of experts of CIS NSOs:

- Meeting on consistency and validation of price data on consumer items (Q2 2018);
- Meeting on 2008 SNA and GDP classification for ICP (Q3 2018).

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison:

During 2014-2015

2017 cycle:

Updated Consumer Items List, specific survey guidelines for collecting data and electronic forms for delivering data on consumer goods and services were prepared and sent to NSOs during March-April 2017. The final Consumer Items List includes 2135 items.

Updated Investment Items List and survey guidelines for collecting data and electronic forms for delivering data on machinery and equipment, and construction were prepared and sent to NSOs in June 2017. The preliminary Investment Items List includes 566 items.

The work on GDP disaggregation by basic headings, non-market services and housing rent questionnaires are in progress now.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison:

2014 CIS ICP – February 2017.

2017 cycle:

September 2019

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison:

2014 CIS ICP – March 2017 (brief results), June 2017 (full results).

2017 cycle:

December 2019 (brief results), April 2020 (full results)

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

CIS-Stat prepared a special report for consideration of Heads of Governments of the CIS countries. Basing on this report, the Council of Heads of Governments on its meeting of October, 28, 2016 recommended countries to participate in 2017 ICP. With mentioning the decision of 47th session of UN Statistical Commission “the ICP to become a permanent element of the global statistical program”, the Council recommended to include necessary activities into CIS NSOs’ programs in accordance with the international recommendations.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

The 2014 CIS ICP detailed results and methodology notes have been published on the CIS-Stat web site. The current data confidentiality policy does not allow publishing national annual average prices.

CIS-Stat step up efforts to disseminate information on ICP works: the key journal on practice and research in statistics published in Russian – “Voprosy Statistiki” – published a special article on the ICP in September 2017.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

The CIS-Stat highly appreciates the productive cooperation ensured by the World Bank, OECD, Eurostat, and Statistics Austria within the 2014 CIS ICP.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

The 2017 CIS ICP budget is ensured by the CIS NSOs and CIS-Stat by 60%; about 10% of necessary resources were provided by the World Bank. An additional external support is crucially important from July 2018 onwards.

11. Overall regional risks

The participation of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan is not yet confirmed officially. Meanwhile the CIS-Stat supports work contacts with national experts providing them with all operational materials and ensuring their participation in regional meetings when convenient.

Funding problem might jeopardize the whole implementation of the 2017 ICP in the CIS region.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

Interim comparison:

The data for interim years is already updated until the year 2014. ECLAC expects to have all information updated to 2016 (if available) for the next regional meeting, in May 2018. The updated forms will be submitted to the countries for validation, and will also be reviewed by the international consultant Norma Chhab-Alperin.

2017 cycle:

Key dates (as of February 2018):

Household Consumption: in the First Technical Meeting held in Santiago in June 2017, it was defined that data collection should ideally start in the 3rd quarter of 2017; if not possible, in the 4th quarter of 2017, followed by three additional quarters of price collection.

As of now, 33 countries have confirmed the start date of price collection. Eight countries started in the 3rd quarter/2017, but only three already sent ECLAC results confirming it. Other 12 countries started data collection in the 4th quarter/2017 - five among them have already sent some information.

The remaining 13 countries are starting in the 1st quarter/2018, all of them in the Caribbean, as a result of an agreement made in a regional CARICOM meeting.

Non-household: the planned schedule for the non-household surveys is:

- Education and Rents: data collection should start in the 3rd quarter of 2018.
- Government Compensation: data collection should start in the 3rd quarter of 2018.
- M&E: data collection should start in the 4th quarter of 2018.
- Construction: data collection should start in the 4th quarter of 2018.

Except for the machinery survey, all other forms were already reviewed, translated to Spanish and sent to the countries in January 2018. The planned schedule is intentional and is still going to be discussed and approved in the Second Technical Meeting, to be held in Panama City, on 7-9 May 2018. Further changes might happen, to adapt to the countries' needs or to adjust to the Global ICP schedule.

2. Number of participating countries

2017 cycle:

ECLAC expects to work with 37 countries in this round. Confirmed participations sum up 33 countries, that already send letters or e-mails detailing the start of data collection. Other three countries - Argentina, Guatemala and Dominica – do have the intention to participate, but did not

confirm yet the start of data collection, despite regular requests. The confirmation of the participation of Venezuela is still pending.

The situation of the remaining countries that could be working under ECLAC's coordination is:

- Costa Rica and Colombia have decided to work with the OECD instead;
- Honduras claims to be unable to participate in this round, but Central Bank has proposed, in a formal letter, to send the prices of the household products that are coincident with their CPI. ECLAC will receive those prices and evaluate strategies to estimate data for the other surveys.
- Cuba sent ECLAC a letter informing they will not participate in the ICP process.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim Comparison:

The data required for the interim years is organized in spreadsheets, although they need to be updated with information from the years 2015 and 2016. The strategy for the extrapolation/retropolation for the interim years will be developed by ECLAC with the support of the consultant Norma Chhab-Alperin between March and May 2018.

2017 cycle:

During the last week of June 2017, ECLAC conducted the first ICP technical meeting, attended by 34 representatives from 31 countries in the region. The ICP Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) list for household consumption, including education and rentals, was presented. Following the meeting, ECLAC included new products and adjusted the Spanish version of the list based on the feedback received.

In July 2017, ECLAC shared the final list for household consumption and some technical documents with countries, including a file to submit price data developed by the consultant Sergey Sergeev. ECLAC also responded to the ensuing queries by countries.

In January 2018, ECLAC finished the review and translation to Spanish of the Special Surveys on Education, Housing, Government Compensation and Construction. The surveys were sent to the countries, and a workplan will be discussed in the next technical meeting, in May 2018. Before that, ECLAC will be sending the ICP Survey on Machinery and Equipment, still under revision.

The Second Meeting will also evaluate and validate the received data from the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2017, and from the 1st quarter of 2018. The event will occur in the same place and week of ECLAC's Annual National Accounts Seminar for LAC, and a common session with participants of both events is on schedule, for the discussion of national accounts requirements for the ICP.

Meanwhile, in January 2018 CARICOM organized some parallel videoconferences with the Caribbean members, that resulted in a proposal to include 35 new items in the Household Consumption List – 19 of them coming from the Global List. ECLAC reviewed the specifications and suggested improvements, and in common agreement it was decided that the proposed products would only be incorporated to the LAC list after a preliminary quarter of data collection restricted to the Caribbean countries in the 1st quarter of 2018. The observed results will be presented in the

Second Technical Meeting. The criteria to define the products approved to the final LAC List will be the number of countries that have collected prices for each product.

ECLAC is also contracting the consultant Norma Chhab-Alperin to contribute on the design of a workplan for the implementation of the rolling survey benchmark in the region. The initial proposal will be presented in the next technical meeting, in May 2018.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim Comparison

The updated forms will be send to countries for validation during the Second Technical Meeting, in May 2018.

2017 cycle

- Household Consumption List: July 2017.
- Household Consumption Spreadsheet for Data Collection: July 2017.
- Education and Rents Survey: January 2018.
- Government Compensation Survey: January 2018.
- Construction Survey: January 2018.
- MORES: March 2018 (planned)
- Machinery & Equipment Survey: April 2018 (planned).

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

2017 cycle:

Since many countries started data collection for household items in the 1st quarter/2018, ECLAC may be receiving new data until the end of February/2019. Therefore, ECLAC hopes to finalize the processing of data in the beginning of the second quarter of 2019, when they will be send to the World Bank.

6. Expected release date of final results

2017 cycle:

ECLAC hopes to publish the findings and results for LAC at the end of 2019, following the global schedule for this cycle.

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

The Statistical Division of ECLAC presented the rolling benchmark approach and new ICP activities at the past two Statistical Conferences of the Americas, at the last LAC National Accounts Seminar, and at the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in March of 2017. In all those activities, countries did not comment unfavorably on the proposal to turn the ICP program into a regular activity.

However, during the first ICP technical meeting (June 2017), some countries explained that they did not include the ICP in their annual budget and they did not have enough resources to conduct

the program. Lack of resources has been a common problem, and the number of requirements for financial support received by ECLAC indicates that many institutions still consider the ICP as an eventual activity.

In smaller countries, the constraint is severe when there is some major statistical work under development, such as a census, a change in the CPI basket, base year changes, etc. There is a lack of human and financial resources, and in this context the ICP generally is not seen as a priority.

For that reason, ECLAC suggests reinforcing this issue at the high level of the UN / World Bank, and ensuring that it trickles down to the technical levels in the national institutions.

Apart from that, a workplan for the implementation of the rolling survey benchmark in the region will be presented in the next technical meeting, in May 2018.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

In the meeting in June 2017, most countries asked ECLAC to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guarantee the confidentiality of the individual price observation data. The countries requested that only average prices per item, and not individual price observations per item, would be disclosed and submitted to the World Bank.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

ECLAC has received 13 requests for technical and financial support to implement the ICP. The capacity built in the previous rounds has been effective, and most of the requests are for funding.

ECLAC is analyzing the 10 requests of financial support on a case by case basis, but it is understood that the current funding from the World Bank does not allow for this kind of direct money transfer to countries. Therefore, we are informing countries that they should not expect any financial support before the end of the year, when a next funding installment from the World Bank is expected.

Regarding the 3 requests for technical assistance, ECLAC is already coordinating with the countries the date for the missions. They are expected to happen in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2018.

For some Caribbean countries, ECLAC will need support for technical assistance on compiling the GDP by the expenditure approach.

At the end of the whole process, ECLAC will need support from Sergey Sergeev to calculate LAC's final results, before sending them to the World Bank.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

ECLAC received the first disbursement of the financial support from the World Bank, and, currently, it is not having a problem of lack of resources, but mainly of lack of flexibility in the use of the resources. Since the demand for direct technical assistance was lower than expected and agreement stated that the grant covered only 10 pilot countries, ECLAC had a very restrict scope to effectively use the resources.

Changes have already been negotiated with the World Bank, through a long and labor-intensive process, but the time for implementation is still challenging. The formal letter requesting the changes has been sent by ECLAC, and we are now waiting for the World Bank final approval. The

Second Technical Meeting, in May/2018, depends heavily on the flexibility to finance more countries and partially on resources of a second disbursement. Those issues must be resolved with enough time to send invitations.

The first funding installment will be used completely by the end of the year, and additional funding will be needed to complete the activities of the 2017 cycle from 2019 onwards.

11. Overall regional risks

ECLAC considers the following issues as potential risks for this program:

- Some Caribbean countries do not have estimates of GDP by the expenditure approach. In this case, ECLAC should prepare some guidelines that allow the estimation of GDP expenditures for all the basic headings, with an acceptable level of quality.
- Some countries did not include the ICP in their annual budget. As a result, they do not have resources to collect additional data to for the household consumption survey and the rest of the special surveys.
- Smaller countries suffer from limited human and financial resources, and the ICP is not seen as a priority when there is another major statistical work under development.
- ECLAC created a special email (PCI2017@cepal.org) to maintain communication with all countries; however, communication has proven difficult for a few countries.
- Delays in the start of data collection – especially in the Caribbean – might accumulate a heavy work overload in the next quarters and create difficulties to match the region's workplan with the Global ICP schedule.
- Administrative processes related to the World Bank funding might delay the planned activities when changes or a new disbursement are required.
- There is pending confirmation on the start of data collection by some countries, that might result in some of them leaving the project. Main concerns are Venezuela (for its political and economic crisis), Honduras (the data they compromised to send might be insufficient) and Guatemala.

WESTERN ASIA

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

Interim comparison:

Western Asia is implementing a 2016 regional comparison for PPP production. The reference year is 2016 and member countries collected household consumption (HHC) and special survey data in 2016 and are currently working on 2014-2015 data for retropolation.

2017 cycle:

Western Asia is participating in the 2017 ICP cycle. Data collection and reference year is divided among member countries: most countries participated in the 2016 regional round and thus will only collect special surveys in 2017 and a subset of HHC items for Fast Evolving Technology, while the rest of the HHC list will be extrapolated; other countries are conducting data collection activities for both HHC and special surveys (HHC: 2017-2018; special surveys: 2017).

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison:

11 countries

2017 cycle:

13 countries

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison:

Western Asia is implementing an interim 2016 regional comparison for PPP production, which will result in the computation of PPPs for 2016, 2015 and 2014 through a combination of data collection and retropolation. Data collection/retropolation and validation activities for 2016, 2015 and 2014 price data are completed. The program has also been extended to the national level in some countries in Western Asia which are implementing national projects guided by the Regional Implementing Unit for the production of sub-national PPPs.

2017 cycle:

Western Asia region is implementing the 2017 ICP cycle; data collection process is complete and activities for the 2017 cycle are progressing as per the set timetable.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison:

- HHC item list and catalogue: February 2016
- Private Education: March 2016
- Rentals: May 2016
- Government Compensation: May 2016

- M&E: March 2016
- Construction: July 2016

2017 cycle:

- HHC Fast Evolving Technology item list and catalogue: May 2017
- Private Education: May 2017
- Rentals and catalogue: May 2017
- Government Compensation: May 2017
- M&E: to be sent during September-October 2017
- Construction: July 2017

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison:

March 2018

2017 cycle:

December 2019

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison:

June 2018

2017 cycle:

December 2019

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

After the end of the 2011 ICP round, Western Asia has been striving to compute PPPs on a regular basis by undertaking innovative initiatives for the production of PPPs, such as conducting regional PPP production rounds and extrapolating/retropolating PPPs for the two years following/preceding the benchmark year. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) member states are aware of the importance of the ICP and the wide benefits and uses of PPPs and are already involved in the ICP activities as if it is a permanent program.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

We are making efforts to encourage member countries to increase access to data at more detailed levels than what is agreed upon.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

Technical assistance would be required for linking regional PPP results to global results for interim periods where there are no global rounds.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

Although member countries are getting used to the program in Western Asia as a permanent program, the issue of funding remains a challenge for supporting the project implementation and the several regional activities that take place such as training, capacity building, validation workshops and the regular international meetings. From our side, we have been exerting efforts to identify additional sources of funding during the interim period, and we could only find humble funding to finance one of our regional activities.

11. Overall regional risks

Because of the unstable situation and conflict in some countries of the region, a number of ESCWA member states which have shown interest to participate in the ICP are unable to do so given the challenges to data collection and participation in meetings, such as Yemen and Syria.

EUROSTAT-OECD

The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) execute their regular programme per a well-established timetable and it is therefore a bit difficult to fill the template which is ICP specific.

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

2017 cycle: Calendar years are the reference years (data collected in 2017 will be available in 2018).

2. Number of participating countries

2017 cycle: For the 2017 cycle, 51 countries are participating in the Eurostat-OECD PPP programme (37 coordinated by Eurostat + 12 coordinated by OECD + Georgia and Ukraine). Two Latin American countries, Colombia and Costa Rica, are in the process of joining the OECD comparison, which requires close cooperation between OECD and ECLAC to ensure the plausibility of the results for those transition countries.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Not applicable

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

2017 cycle: Per a well-established timetable for each survey. Core Items for consumer goods and services, equipment goods, collective services, health services are integrated into the Eurostat-OECD regular surveys. For education and construction, where OECD and Eurostat follow a different method, countries will provide the information needed for the linking on a voluntary basis.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

2017 cycle: Per a well-established timetable for each survey.

6. Expected release date of final results

End of 2017: OECD and Eurostat will publish final results for 2014 and preliminary results for 2015 and 2016.

End of 2018: OECD and Eurostat will publish final results for 2015 and preliminary results for 2016 and 2017.

End of 2019: OECD and Eurostat will publish final results for 2016 and preliminary results for 2017 and 2018.

Since last year, OECD has moved to a full rolling survey approach, except for capital goods, with annual calculation of results, instead of the previous practice of calculating detailed results every three years. Therefore, OECD currently follows the same timetable as Eurostat.

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

To be further discussed with countries.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

Feedback will be provided when the document on this issue is available.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

Not applicable

10. Funding situation and sustainability

Not applicable

11. Overall regional risks

Not applicable