



The World Bank

Implementation of the International Comparison Program (ICP) in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 15-Sep-2021 | Report No: PIDC250357

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P177397		Low	Implementation of the International Comparison Program (ICP) in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
OTHER	World	15-Sep-2021	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)	

Public Disclosure Copy

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	0.20
Total Financing	0.20
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	0.20
Program to Support Statistical Capacity Building in ECA	0.20



B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Given the importance of internationally comparable price and volume measures of gross domestic product (GDP) and its expenditure aggregates, the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and related ministries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have expressed their interest in participating in the International Comparison Program (ICP). The expression of interest by the CIS countries is documented through a meeting of the CIS Economic Council, which took place in June 2019.

The ICP is a worldwide statistical initiative to collect comparative price data and estimate purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the world's countries. PPPs are used to convert different currencies to a common currency and, in the process of conversion, to equalize their purchasing power by eliminating the differences in price levels between countries. Hence, when the GDPs and expenditure aggregates of countries are converted to a common currency using PPPs, they are valued at the same price level, reflecting only real differences in the volumes of goods and services purchased in the countries.

PPPs and related measures play a key role in the analyses carried out by policymakers, multilateral institutions, and private sector actors, among others. Major uses by international organizations include Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); United Nations Human Development Index; World Bank poverty rates; and International Monetary Fund country group aggregates and growth rates, and country quota formula. Major uses by policymakers, academia and private sector include analysis of national competitiveness; welfare measures; consumption patterns; trade, productivity and competitiveness; energy efficiency; health and education costs; and evaluation of investment costs across countries.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The ICP is conducted through a partnership with international, regional and national agencies. The ICP governance framework consists of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), a Governing Board, an Inter-Agency Coordination Group, Technical Advisory Group and Task Forces, a Global Implementing Agency, Regional Implementing Agencies, and National Implementing Agencies, each of which has distinct roles and responsibilities.

The UNSC is the ultimate stakeholder of the ICP, deciding the frequency and operational modality of the Program. The UNSC constitutes the ICP Governing Board, ensuring adequate representation by key countries and regional organizations.

ICP Governing Board is a strategic and policy-making body, which sets the policies that govern the production of regional and global PPPs; approves the methodology and any methodological improvements; conducts outreach to policy-makers to ensure the inclusion of the ICP in the national permanent statistical work; and helps with fund-raising at country level to increase national funding for the ICP.



Global Implementing Agency supports the governance framework and undertakes the overall coordination and implementation of the ICP, including day-to-day management of the global program, convening governance meetings and other activities, and preparing and disseminating global ICP results. The World Bank, acting as the Global Implementing Agency, established a Global ICP Unit to assume this role.

Regional Implementing Agencies coordinate and implement the regional ICP comparisons, prepare and disseminate regional ICP results, and facilitate data and information flow between the Global Implementing Agency and participating countries.

National Implementing Agencies plan, coordinate and implement the national ICP activities, and facilitate data and information flow to and from the Regional Implementing Agency.

Under this federated coordination structure, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) acts as the Regional Implementing Agency for the CIS region.

Until recently, the ICP rounds have been conducted approximately every six years, 2017 being the reference year for the most recent global ICP round. Recognizing the needs for more frequent and reliable PPP estimates, the UNSC agreed, at its 47th Session held in 2016, that the ICP should become a permanent element of the global statistical program, conducted more frequently with shorter intervals between successive rounds, further aligned with regular national statistical programs, and implemented under a light and stable governance framework.

Relationship to CPF

Not applicable.

C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective is to ensure successful conduct of the International Comparison Program (ICP) activities in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, and to further institute the ICP as a permanent element of the regional and national statistical program, as per the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) recommendation. Furthermore, through the conduct of various activities, the project aims to enhance statistical capacity of the CIS National Statistical Offices (NSOs), especially in relation to economic statistics.

Key Results

The expected key results of the project are i) a set of PPPs and related measures at various level of aggregation for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries and related public reports; ii) further institution of the International Comparison Program (ICP) as a permanent element of the regional



and national statistical programs in the CIS region; and iii) enhanced statistical capacity of the CIS National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the fields of national accounts and price statistics.

As per the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy set by the ICP Governing Board, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) will make available the following data and metadata to the ICP partnership, for the production of global ICP results:

1. Purchasing power parities (PPPs), price level indices and expenditure data for all countries participating in the regional comparison as per the ICP Classification of Final Expenditure on gross domestic product (GDP).
2. National average price data at the item level for items on the Global Core Lists for all countries participating in the regional comparison, with supporting metadata and measures of quality.
3. National average price data at the item level for regional items not on the Global Core Lists for all countries participating in the regional comparison, with supporting metadata and measures of quality.
4. Population and exchange rate data for all countries participating in the regional comparison.
5. A broad description of ICP methodology implemented in each region, including the method implemented for housing and a table showing the reference PPPs used to impute regional PPPs.
6. Regional Lists, with supporting item descriptions.
7. Survey framework documentation for all countries participating in the regional comparison, including a table showing items for which prices were collected and quarters in which prices were collected, and a description on estimation method for national average prices.
8. National accounts reporting forms and related country practice questionnaires for all countries participating in the regional comparison.

The ICP as a global partnership, established to produce global PPP estimates and related measures of real expenditures, relies on contributions and collaboration by the global, regional and national agencies. This project covers the activities described under the "Project Description".

D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

To achieve the development objective and key results, the project comprises the following components and activities.

1. Arrangement of regional workshops



The component involves conducting regional workshops that cover the following topics: i) designing International Comparison Program (ICP) surveys; ii) compiling gross domestic product (GDP) expenditures; iii) conducting quality assurance; iv) sharing knowledge and best practices relating to production of economics statistics; and (v) promoting the uses of purchasing power parities (PPPs).

2. Participation in international meetings and conferences

The component aims at ensuring that the national and regional economic statistics and PPP estimates are produced according to the latest methodologies, techniques, guidelines and agreements.

3. Preparation of operational materials and calculation of PPP estimates

The component involves preparing operational materials for conducting ICP activities and producing PPP estimates and related measures.

4. Production of knowledge materials and publications

The component involves production of knowledge materials relating to economic statistics and publications illustrating regional ICP results.

Public Disclosure Copy

Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant

ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries Not Currently Relevant

Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No	

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Environmental and Social risk rating is classified as low. The project is financing TA activities such as regional workshops, meetings, conferences, productions and dissemination of operational and knowledge materials and publications, to enhance statistical capacity of the CIS NSOs, especially in relation to economic activities. The ICP implementation in countries may present number of socio-economic indicators: poverty and inequality, health and education, labour productivity and infrastructure. These indicators inform and help governments, national and international policy makers, and institutions to analyze, change and measure the effectiveness of economic policies. The ICP implementation requires extensive and accurate economic data collection by the participating CIS countries. The longevity of COVID-19 pandemic may cause disruption and technical challenges experienced by the countries such as delays in data collection and compilation. Some of the TA activities such as face-to face meetings, workshops may be affected and restricted due to ongoing pandemic. The mitigation measures may include alternative data collection methods, relying more on online platforms for data collection, and conducting trainings, conferences and workshops in a virtual manner. There are no anticipated project environmental risks and impacts as the proposed activities will not support any activities including civil works which might generate direct impacts, nor TA activities which would relate to development of feasibility studies or business plans that would lead to further investment operations and might indirectly cause such risks and impacts. Project activities will not involve civil works. The labour related risks are low as workers involved in the Project are public servants representing regional and local statistical agencies of the respective countries, or international consultants hired by the PIU. The activities for this project will not require the acquisition or conversion of any land nor will the activities restrict access to resources. At this initial stage of the project preparation none of the identified activities are likely to result in adverse environmental or social impacts or risks.

Public Disclosure Copy

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Contact : Marko Olavi Rissanen Title : Senior Statistician
 Telephone No : 1-202-473-25 Email :

Borrower/Client/Recipient



The World Bank

Implementation of the International Comparison Program (ICP) in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Borrower : Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)
Contact : Andrey Kosarev Title : Deputy Chairman
Telephone No : 7-495-632-90-45 Email : kosarev@cisstat.org

Implementing Agencies

Implementing Agency : Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)
Contact : Andrey Kosarev Title : Deputy Chairman
Telephone No : 7-495-632-90-45 Email : kosarev@cisstat.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

Public Disclosure Copy