

SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT
Towards the Implementation of
COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy
Recommendations



**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC)**

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**REPORT OF
THE STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND
TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC)**

ON

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY AND
MINISTERIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

SUBMITTED TO

**37th MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

Agenda Item No: 4-10

08-09 June 2021

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the programmes and activities that have been conducted by SESRIC towards the implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations. It is prepared to be submitted to the 37th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, which will be held on 08-09 June 2021, in a virtual-only format.

The reporting period is characterised by the continuous efforts of the Centre on the implementation of the cooperation areas of COMCEC Strategy, which focus on addressing the common development challenges of the Islamic Ummah, in accordance with the mandate of SESRIC. Through its multifaceted activities, SESRIC has benefited from unwavering support and commitment of the OIC Member States, strategic guidance and synergy with the General Secretariat of the OIC, and the support of the COMCEC, which, *inter alia*, has contributed to a functional and substantial correlation and coherence of the efforts of the Centre in assisting the OIC Member States to address their developmental needs and challenges.

In brief, since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC has studied and assessed economic and social developments in the OIC Member States with a view to generating proposals to strengthen cooperation among them. The Centre continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues on the agendas of various OIC conferences and related meetings, particularly the sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. In doing so, the Centre continued to make a significant contribution to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism by analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting appropriate policy actions to address the challenges and strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in the relevant fields.

The Centre also continued to play an essential role in strengthening and improving the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in the OIC Member States with a view to producing better national statistics and thus helping policy-makers introduce better national policies and strategies. In this context, the Centre contributes significantly to the technical capacity building of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other constituents of the NSSs of the OIC Member States in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and through its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

During the period under review, SESRIC has made efforts to strengthen intra-OIC South-South cooperation by implementing a wide range of capacity building programmes and training activities on various socio-economic fields of immediate interest to the OIC Member States. Currently, the Centre has 23 sector-specific capacity building programmes covering a wide range of areas such as finance, agriculture, health, water resources, poverty alleviation, disaster risk management, public employment and tourism. These programmes are implemented in close cooperation with relevant national institutions of the OIC Member States through various modalities, including training courses, training workshops and study visits.

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the Centre has undertaken the necessary and timely technical preparations to continue its training activities and keep participants motivated and engaged during this time of global crisis. In this regard, the Centre has achieved to organise all of its planned activities so far in 2021 through its newly adopted distance learning modalities.

Furthermore, during the period under review, SESRIC signed an agreement with the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 11 February 2021 to strengthen existing cooperation and explore new ways of collaboration for a better implementation of COMCEC Strategy and Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

In the light of the above, this report highlights the implemented activities of SESRIC in accordance with the seven cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy, which are listed below:

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. INTRA-OIC TRADE**
- 2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION**
- 3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**
- 4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR**
- 5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY**
- 6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY**
- 7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION**

1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

Since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on “Intra-OIC Trade”:

SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/ Partner	Venue
1	Statistical Training Course on “International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments”	8-11 February 2021	National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of Benin, Djibouti, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, and Tunisia	NSO of Senegal	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
2	Training Workshop on “Data Collection and Analysis of Trade-in-Services among the OIC Member States”	23-25 March 2021	NSOs of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, and Uganda	Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
3	Webinar on “International Trade in Goods Statistics”	6 April 2021	NSOs of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cote d’Ivoire, Indonesia, Kuwait, Maldives, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan	NSOs of Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
4	Webinar on “International Trade in Services Statistics”	13 April 2021	NSOs of Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Pakistan, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and UAE	NSO of Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

- **Study on African Continental Free Trade Area Potential – The Case of OIC African Countries:** SESRIC and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) conducted a joint research study to assess the potential impacts of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on OIC African countries, namely Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Mozambique, Tunisia and Uganda. The study investigates how the AfCFTA can contribute to the greater intra-regional trade among OIC African countries by highlighting output, trade and welfare effects and providing some policy directions towards better utilisation of the Agreement based on the projected outcomes.
- **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database:** SESRIC is hosting 52 indicators under the Trade category of OICStat Database, which can be accessed through <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and are being updated regularly.

2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of “Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation”:

OIC-VET Programme

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/ Partner	Venue
1	Webinar on “Strengthening Private Sector Involvement in Skills Development”	11 February 2021	Relevant National TVET Authorities of the OIC Member States	Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), UNDP Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 38 indicators under the Private Sector category of OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on “Improving Transport and Communications”:

SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Webinar on “Survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Usage in Household and Individuals”	10 December 2020	NSOs of Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Togo, Turkey, and Uzbekistan	NSO of Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
2	Webinar on “Survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Usage in Enterprises”	17 December 2020	NSOs of Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan	NSO of Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
3	Statistical Training Course on “Transport Statistics”	15-18 March 2021	NSOs of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Morocco, Niger, and Togo	NSO of Senegal	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
4	Webinar on “SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure) Indicators”	18 March 2021	NSOs of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Egypt, Guyana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Suriname, and Turkey	NSOs of Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
5	Statistical Training Course on “Information Society Statistics”	24-27 May 2021	NSOs of Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Somalia, Oman, Qatar, and Turkey	NSO of Malaysia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
6	Webinar on “Motor Vehicle, Traffic Volume, and Road Traffic Accident Statistics”	3 June 2021	NSOs of the OIC Member States	NSO of Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 20 indicators under the Transportation and Communication category of OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

Since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on “Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector”:

SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes and the OIC-VET Programme

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Statistical Training Course on “Tourism Statistics”	13-15 December 2020	NSOs of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen	NSO of Tunisia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
2	Statistical Training Course on “Tourism Statistics”	18-21 January 2021	NSOs of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Uzbekistan	NSO of Malaysia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
3	Webinar on “Tourism Statistics”	24 February 2021	NSOs of Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, Togo, and Uzbekistan	NSOs of Malaysia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, and Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
4	Training Course on “Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Services”	22-26 March 2021	National Tourism Office of Comoros	Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) of Malaysia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
5	Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Tourism and Hospitality Services”	29 March - 02 April 2021	National TVET Authorities of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, The Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Suriname, Tunisia, and Turkmenistan	General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education at the Ministry of National Education of Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

- **Training Workshop on “Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies”:** Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), SESRIC and ICDT jointly organised this online training workshop on 02-04 March 2021 for the benefit of participants from the National Tourism Authorities of the OIC Member States. During the training workshop, participating tourism experts and executives from different National Tourism Authorities of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guyana, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, and Yemen took this opportunity to update their knowledge and discuss different aspects of tourism destination marketing, including strategy development, stakeholder management, and financing and ICT based marketing.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 12 indicators under the Tourism category of OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

Since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on “Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security”.

SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Statistical Training Course on “Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Statistics”	30 November – 4 December 2020	NSO of Cote d'Ivoire	NSO of Morocco	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
2	Training Course on “Developing Livestock Production and Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security”	19-21 May 2021	Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security of the OIC Member States	Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries of Malaysia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 37 indicators under the Agriculture category of OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

Since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on “Alleviating Poverty”:

SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes and the OIC-VET Programme

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on “Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Development Plans and Projects”	07-10 December 2020	Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) of Somalia	Ministry of Industry and Technology of Turkey, Strategy and Budget Presidency of Turkey, Ankara Development Agency, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
2	Statistical Training Course on “Living Conditions and Poverty Statistics”	8-9 December 2020	NSO of Bangladesh	NSO of Indonesia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
3	Webinar on “Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and TQS-Youth”	9 December 2020	NSOs of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Benin, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Togo, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDC Foundation	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
4	Webinar on “The Impact of COVID-19 on Elderly People and Persons with Disabilities in the OIC Member States”	23 December 2020	Relevant National Institutions Responsible for Elderly People and Persons with Disabilities from the OIC Member States	Relevant National Institutions Responsible for Elderly People and Persons with Disabilities from Guinea, Morocco, Turkey and Uganda	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
5	Statistical Training Course on “SDG 3 (Good Health And Well-Being) Indicators”	28-30 December 2020	NSOs of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Gambia, and Uzbekistan	NSO of Pakistan	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

6	Training Course on “Advancement and Empowerment of Women’s Entrepreneurial Skills”	08-11 March 2021	Relevant Public Service, Labour and Social Protection related Ministries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, and Senegal	National Agency for Employment and Independent Work (ANETI) of Tunisia	Virtual-SESERIC, Ankara - Turkey
7	Webinar on “SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) Indicators”	17 March 2021	NSOs of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Benin, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen	NSOs of Jordan, Malaysia, Palestine, Qatar, Sudan, Turkey, and Yemen	Virtual-SESERIC, Ankara - Turkey
8	Training Course on “Anti-Competitive Practices and Promotion of Competition”	30 March - 01 April 2021	National Commission for Competition and Consumption (CNCC) of Burkina Faso	Turkish Competition Authority and Competition Council of Tunisia	Virtual-SESERIC, Ankara - Turkey
9	Workshop on “Competition vs. Regulation and the Appropriate Organisational Structure of a Competition Agency”	06-07 April 2021	National Competition Authorities of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, The Gambia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA)	Turkish Competition Authority, Competition Commission of Pakistan, Competition Council of Tunisia, Malaysia Competition Commission, National Commission for Competition and Consumption of Burkina Faso, Commission for the Supervision of Business Competition in Indonesia, National Competition Committee of Cameroon, Antimonopoly Committee of Uzbekistan, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission of The Gambia, and Antimonopoly Agency of Kazakhstan	Virtual-SESERIC, Ankara - Turkey

10	Training Course on “Development of E-learning Curriculum and Relevant E-materials”	19-22 April 2021	National TVET Authorities of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, The Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.	Ministry of Education of Malaysia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
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- OIC Women and Development Report 2020:** This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of women in the OIC Member States and identifies key challenges faced by women in social and economic life by using qualitative and quantitative datasets. The report presents a thematic debate on the level of progress made towards the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action on the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) since its adoption in 2016.
- Workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC Member States”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised this online workshop on 11-14 January 2021 for the benefit of participants from TVET authorities of the OIC Member States. During the workshop, participants from TVET authorities of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, and Turkmenistan discussed the emerging challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic, with special emphasis on the necessity of digital skills developments and sufficient methods of tackling skill-gaps. It also served as a platform to foster experience sharing and good practices among relevant authorities in the OIC Member States concerning the new trends in TVET teacher education and capacity development.
- Training Workshop on “Institutional Capacity Building for Effective Labour Market Information Systems”:** Within the framework of its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), and in line with the Executive Programme for the Implementation of OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised this online training workshop on 01-04 February 2021. The training workshop brought together participants from different public employment

agencies/authorities and relevant national institutions of the OIC Member States, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Indonesia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, and Turkmenistan, to discuss how to establish and manage labour market information systems in their respective countries effectively.

- **Training Course on “Designing Revenue-Generating Projects for Entrepreneurs”:** Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC, in cooperation with the Regional Educational Centre of ICESCO in Chad, organised this online training course on 24-28 May 2021 for the benefit of entrepreneurs in Chad. The training course aimed to provide insights on how to generate business ideas in line with labour market needs as well as to present a comprehensive guide on starting a business for entrepreneurs.
- **The 3rd Meeting of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET):** Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised the 3rd Meeting of the OIC-PESNET on 02-03 June 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The 3rd Meeting of the OIC-PESNET aimed to reactivate the work of this important Network by bringing together representatives of Public Employment Authorities from the OIC Member States to discuss and adopt the “OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022” and “Rules of Procedure of the OIC-PESNET”.
- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 36 indicators related to poverty alleviation (SDG #1 ‘No Poverty’ indicators) under OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.

7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Since the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, the following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on “Deepening Financial Cooperation”:

SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on “Formulating Monetary Policy”	22-25 February 2021	Central Bank of Iraq, Central Bank of Jordan, Palestine Monetary Authority	Central Bank of Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
2	Training Course on “Financial Education”	24-27 May 2021	Central Banks of the OIC Member States	Central Bank of Turkey	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

3	Training Course on “Sukuk Issuance in Islamic Capital Markets”	31 May - 02 June 2021	Relevant Securities and Exchange Commissions of the OIC Member States	Securities Commission of Malaysia	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey
4	Training Workshop on “Quality Management in Public Audit”	15-16 June 2021	Relevant Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the OIC Member States	Turkish Court of Accounts	Virtual-SESRIC, Ankara - Turkey

- **OICStat Database:** SESRIC is hosting 41 indicators under the International Finance category and Islamic Banking and Finance category of OICStat Database and are being updated regularly.