

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Regional Workshop on REDATAM+SP xPlan and WebServer Applications Development 2 – 12 August 2011 Castries LIMITED LC/CAR/L.305 19 August 2011 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON REDATAM+SP XPLAN AND WEBSERVER APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT FOR DATA DISSEMINATION

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A. INTRODUCTION

Since its development in 1982, the REtrieval of DATa for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM) software program has been used by many Latin American and Caribbean countries for the processing and dissemination of census and survey data. The software played a key role in the 1990 and 2000 rounds of the population and housing census, as it allowed for the storage, processing and publication of national data in many countries across the region. With the current round of population and housing censuses, there was renewed interest in the development of statistical capacity in the software as countries sought to ensure the timely release and dissemination of the data and assure its availability to users through an accessible medium.

The Regional Workshop on REDATAM+SP xPlan and WebServer Application Development was organized in response to the need of national statistical offices for training in the software, and was oriented towards improving current statistical capacity in the data dissemination modules, namely WebServer and xPlan. Ultimately, with support from the REDATAM Development Team of the Population Division (CELADE) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the regional workshop was expected to help promote timely dissemination of data generated from the 2010 round of population and housing census. The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- (a) To increase the capacity of member States to disseminate timely data
- (b) To increase the number of skilled personnel in the subregion who are trained in the Web Server and xPlan modules of the REDATAM software
- (c) To promote the use of the REDATAM software within the subregion for the dissemination of data from the 2010 round population and housing census.

The content of the workshop was structured to cover primarily the data dissemination components of the software; however, training was also provided in the Create and Process modules that were used for the development and processing of REDATAM databases. The workshop also allowed for the transfer and acquisition of new skills and provided an enabling environment for further coordination of data dissemination within the Caribbean.

The workshop facilitators were drawn from CELADE and ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Funding for the technical assistance mission was provided under the United Nations Development Account-funded project 'Strengthening the Capacity of National Statistical Offices in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs)'.

B. ATTENDANCE AT THE WORKSHOP

Place and date of the session

The Regional Workshop on REDATAM+SP xPlan and Web Server Application Development for Data Dissemination was held from 2 – 12 August 2011 in Castries.

Participation

The workshop primarily targeted database experts and web developers who received prior training in REDATAM through any of the national or regional introductory workshops that had been offered to member States. In attendance were 18 participants, including directors of statistical offices and senior statisticians from the following Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee member and associate member countries: Aruba, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. A representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat also attended the workshop. Of the total participants, 12 (66.7%) were males and 6 (33.3%) were females. The full list of participants is attached at Annex 1.

C. SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

Opening session

The workshop was preceded by a short opening ceremony which featured a keynote address from the Director of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in Saint Lucia, Edwin St. Catherine, and opening remarks from the Population Affairs Officer, ECLAC Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Sinovia Moonie.

In the feature address, the Director of CSO noted the increased use of the internet as a medium for data sharing and dissemination. In that vein, he highlighted the value of the REDATAM application in meeting the needs of national statistical offices for an efficient web-based data dissemination tool. He, however, lamented the staff constraints and limited technical capacity (especially of information technology units) of most statistical offices that had hindered the proliferation and use of the software in the Caribbean region. He noted the timeliness of the workshop, as many countries across the region were preparing to complete, or had completed, the conduct of their population and housing censuses. The training would be useful in increasing technical competencies within offices and, consequently, allow for greater dissemination of census results through the internet. In closing, he urged participants to take advantage of the learning experience and encouraged them to make use of the software in that round of the census.

In delivering the opening remarks on behalf of the Officer-in-Charge, the Population Affairs Officer at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean acknowledged the strong presence of database experts and statisticians at the workshop. She underscored the use of the software in past censuses and noted the wide usage of the software as well as the numerous training requests from countries across the globe. She highlighted the regional efforts that had yielded training of a number of persons in the software and encouraged participants to use the forum as a medium for further enhancing capacity in the use of the software and networking with other regional users.

Main achievements

The main focus of the workshop was to improve the current national statistical capacity in the use of the Web Server and xPlan modules which were used for dissemination of data via the internet and removable storage such as CR-ROMs, respectively. Through the workshop, participants were provided with an opportunity to appreciate the full functionality of each of the four modules of the software.

The workshop was designed with a practical orientation and included exercises that allowed participants to develop their own applications using the xPlan and Web Server modules. The activities were designed to stimulate a high level of interaction and networking among users of the software. Since the workshop was expected to build on skills and experience acquired at a previous regional workshop convened

in November 2008, it was structured to include two initial days for revision of the basics of REDATAM software (Create and Process modules). Those two days also served as an introduction for participants who had no prior training in the software. The eight remaining days were then dedicated to providing training exclusively on the Web Server and xPlan modules. By the conclusion of the workshop, participants developed two sets of applications using a common sample data file and their own national census/survey databases. Throughout the workshop, participants were able to provide evidence of the capabilities of their applications through regular demonstrations to peers and facilitators. Customized applications were developed by participants using the following datasets for their respective countries.

Table 1

Datasets used by country for development of xPlan and Web Server applications

Country/ Organization	Data set used for developing applications (census/ survey)				
Aruba	Population and Housing Census 2010				
Belize	Population and Housing Census 2010				
British Virgin Islands	Population and Housing Census 2001				
CARICOM	Sample of Population and Housing Census 2001 for Saint Lucia				
Cayman Islands	Labour Force Survey 2009				
Grenada	Population and Housing Census 2001				
Guyana	Health Survey (Emergency Obstetrics and New Born Care				
	2010)				
Jamaica	Population and Housing Census 2001				
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Population and Housing Census 2001				
Saint Lucia	Population and Housing Census 2010				
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Population and Housing Census 2001				
Suriname	Household Survey 2010				
Trinidad and Tobago	Population and Housing Census 2000				

During a short closing ceremony on the last day of the workshop, certificates of participation were awarded to all 18 participants who had successfully completed the workshop. Participants also received CD-ROMS containing all the PowerPoint presentations delivered during the workshop, an update of the software which was developed during the course of the workshop, as well as all other relevant documentation circulated or referenced during the workshop. Participants were also apprised of the various resources available for technical support, including the new segment of the REDATAM portal which would house links to documentation and other relevant resources.

D. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

The following section provides a summary of a detailed analysis conducted on responses submitted by participants at the conclusion of the workshop. Responses were received from all 18 participants, thus the views expressed below were fully representative of the group.

The composition of the respondents of the evaluation by sex and organizational type / affiliation was as follows:

Table 2
Sex of respondents by department or ministry

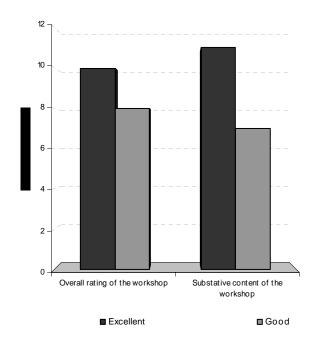
	_	Type of	Total		
	_	National Ministry	Other national institution	International Organization	
Sex of respondent	Male	7	4	1	12
	Female	4	2	0	6
Total		11	6	1	18

Substantive content and usefulness of the workshop

Overall, participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the content and various other aspects of the workshop which were assessed in the evaluation.

Participants' feedback on the substantive content of the workshop and their overall rating of the workshop was positive, with all 18 participants rating those aspects of the training as either "excellent" or "good". The modal rating for each of those aspects was "excellent". Table 1 displays the distribution of the responses across the 5-point scale used for those two items.

Figure 1 **Participants' feedback on content and overall quality of the workshop**



Participants were also required to indicate, through a dichotomous question, the extent to which the workshop lived up to their initial expectations. Without exception, all participants responded positively to this item.

Usefulness and impact of training

The items in that section were critical for assessing the value added through the regional training workshop. Initial impact of the training was assessed in terms of key factors, such as the relevance of the training to their needs, the usefulness of the software and the usefulness of the training in improving statistical capacity. A combination of open-ended and rating scale items were used for that component of the evaluation. Each of the closed-ended items was scored along a continuum from "highly useful" to "not useful at all".

Feedback on the relevance of the training for the work of their institutions was positive. Of the eighteen respondents 14 (77.8%) stated that the training was "very relevant" and 4 (22.2%) rated it as "relevant". Similar views were expressed about the usefulness of the actual software tools presented at the workshop. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the ratings for this area.

As follow-up to those items, participants were asked to identify areas for improvement and "takeaways" in terms of analyses and indicators presented at the workshop. In terms of areas for improvement, participants made suggestions that related to the following core areas:

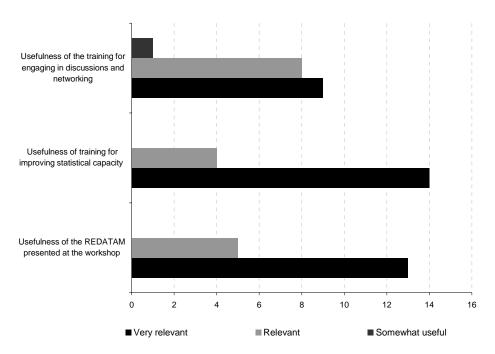
- Improving the reference material and manuals:
 - "A complete reference book for all possible commands of xPlan and Process modules"
 - "The REDATAM manuals need extensive revision"
- Providing further elaboration on the content related to the Web Server and xPlan applications:
 - "More time for the programming aspect of the session"
 - "The xPlan and Web could be more explanatory in terms of the processes so we would have a better understanding of the procedures"
- Adjusting the pace of the training or increasing its duration:
 - "Due to the quantity of the workload, the possibility of extending the course can be considered"
 - "More time to understand how the various files work"
 - "The workshop should be divided into two phases (at least 2) each dealing with a specific component of REDATAM"
- Conducting a follow-up workshop:
 - "It could be improved by presenting another workshop to fine tune the knowledge learned seeing that the software is very potent and very diverse, especially regarding programming"

A few participants indicated satisfaction with the training and commended its organization:

[&]quot;It was very well coordinated and organized"

[&]quot;I think everything done in the workshop was clear in terms of the explanation of the program itself".

Figure 2
Participants' views of the relevance and usefulness of the training and software tools presented at the workshop



With regard to the specific components of the software that would be incorporated into the work of the various institutions/offices represented at the workshop, all participants indicated an interest in using either some or all of the components/modules of the software. The specific components selected and tallies for each are given in table 3.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Table 3 \\ \textbf{Specific aspects of the training to be incorporated in the work of their institutions} \\ \end{tabular}$

Specific components/ modules to be incorporated into work of institution	Frequency
Create module	1
Process module	1
xPlan, including Front Page	8
Web Server Application	7
All components of the software	5

The evaluation also assessed the initial impact of the training in terms of its usefulness in strengthening capacity to develop applications for the timely dissemination of micro data. As improving the dissemination of census and other micro data was one of the key objectives of the workshop, that item had significant value in assessing the actual achievement of that goal. The vast majority (77.8%) of the 18 respondents recorded that that item was achieved through the option "highly useful"; the remaining 4 (22.2%) selected "useful".

The evaluation also assessed the usefulness of the workshop as a forum for networking and exchanging experiences with counterparts in the region. Participants rated that aspect of the workshop along a 5-point scale that ranged from "very useful" to "not useful at all". The distribution of responses for that item was displayed in figure 2.

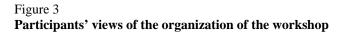
Organization of the training workshop on the development of applications for data dissemination

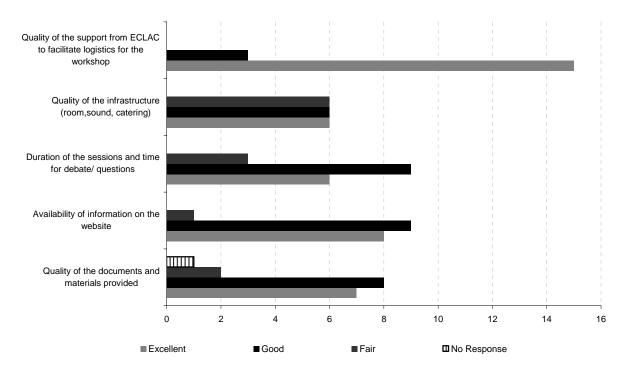
Responses to the two dichotomous questions on participants' access to the training materials prior to the workshop and the use of these materials in preparing for the event revealed that, with the exception of one person who had "no response", all participants received the training material. Of those 17 participants, only 10 (55.6%) reported that they had read the material.

A 6-point scale was used to evaluate several aspects related to the organization of the workshop. Each of the five aspects were scored along a continuum ranging from 1 to 6, with 1 representing "excellent" and 6 indicating "no response/ not sure". The components of the organization that were assessed were the quality of the documents and materials, the availability of information on website, the duration of the sessions and time for discussions, the quality of the infrastructure and the quality of support from ECLAC. For all aspects except the quality of the infrastructure, at least 15 (83.3%) of the participants provided ratings of "excellent" or "good"; the modal score for each being "good". Participants' assessment of the quality of the infrastructure was split equally (33.3% each) between the options "excellent", "good" and "fair". Figure 3 shows the distribution of those ratings.

In the final section of the evaluation, participants were given an opportunity to provide general comments and suggestions. Some of the comments provided were consistent with those provided in the previous section on areas for improvement. The more frequently mentioned comment related to the training facilities:

- "The hotel did not have converters available. I could not use devices in the room"
- "The readability of the screens from the projector at times were not quite visible especially viewing the top menus"





Participants also reiterated the need for some revision of the training manuals and lengthening the duration of the workshop:

- "The REDATAM manuals need extensive review"
- "The volume of work for the workshop is more than enough for the timeframe. Participants will need more time to assimilate the entire content of the workshop"
- "It was apparent that the author of the documentation was not a native speaker of English. Additionally some of the bugs in the system could have been worked out prior to the workshop"

Participants also used that opportunity to thank the facilitators and commend the organization of the workshop:

- "The workshop was a success. The instructors were helpful and very qualified and did an excellent job"
- "There was very good support from the ECLAC instructors"
- "Presentations and exercises were good. I would have preferred the power points at the end of the day"
- "The venue was very well selected, the hotel tried to facilitate every request"
- "Everything was fine"
- "Overall good, but time was too short to cover the material"

Follow-up activities and areas for future work

The final component of the evaluation included a few questions on ways in which ECLAC could support their respective institutions and countries, in the area of statistics. In response, participants articulated their interest in the following areas:

- "how to structure micro data in a standardized way to make one big application with all statistics"
- "census data processing"
- "TA/ Training on imputation for missing data"
- "More data analysis with REDATAM"
- "ECLAC can help in looking at ways to improve our systems and methodologies and help ministries/ institutions in areas of statistical improvements to continuously improve their statistical systems"
- "Data management and storing"
- "Training in developing and disseminating metadata for the CSMDGs"
- "Online forum where users can post tips, comments, answers"
- "Refresher courses in the use of the software on a country level"
- "More workshops of this kind"

E. CONCLUSIONS

There was significant evidence in the responses to the evaluation that participants valued the training and the new software tools presented to them through the workshop. There was also evidence that the participants recognized the utility of the software within their offices and also expressed an interest in using some or all components of the software to enhance the work of their office. There was positive feedback on the organizational aspects of the workshop and also expressions of interest for the conduct of further training in the near future.

F. FUTURE ACTIONS

While the workshop initially targeted persons who were trained and versed with REDATAM, for a few countries there was a challenge with identifying those staff members. As such, some of the participants were trained in REDATAM for the first time and would, therefore, be added to the Network of Caribbean Users which was formed in 2008 as a community of practice for the Caribbean subregion. Users of the software would have an opportunity to share their experiences and network with other users with similar interests. As part of the network, users would routinely get copies of the biannual newsletters and other information and updates on the software.

As a follow-up activity, ECLAC would conduct a post-training evaluation six months after the workshop to assess the transfer of knowledge and actual use of the software. The evaluation would be conducted through an electronic survey via the Vovici Survey Platform in February 2012.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Member countries

Belize

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Annex 2

WORKSHOP EVALUATION



REDATAM+SP REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON REDATAM+SP XPLAN AND WEBSERVER APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT FOR DATA DISSEMINATION

Castries, Saint Lucia 2- 14 August, 2011

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

In an effort to assess the effectiveness and impact of this workshop, kindly complete the following evaluation form. Your responses will be invaluable in providing feedback on the overall training received, identifying areas of weakness and help improve the organization of future workshops.

	IDENTIFICATION			
Sex Male	☐ Female			
Country of origin: Institution(s) you represent: Title/Position:				
Type of organization you represe	Subregional institution International organization WGO Civil society			
	Other:			

Substantive content and usefulness of workshop

1. What is your o	overall rating	of the works	shop?				
1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Averag	e 4. Poor	5. Very	poor	6. Not su	ire / no response
2. How would yo	u rate the sub	stantive con	tent of the wor	kshop?			
1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Averag	e 4. Poor	5. Very	poor	6. Not	sure / no response
3. Did the worksh	op live up to	your initial	expectations?				
1. Agree	2. Neither a	gree nor disa	agree	3. Disagree		4. No	ot sure / no response
4. How relevant	was the trai	ning for the	work of your	institution?			
1. Very Relevant	2. Re	levant	3. Somewha	t relevant	4. Not	relevant	5. Not sure/no
11 / 01/ 11010 / 01110	_, _,		01 2 0 111 0 11 11 0			1010 / 01110	response
							•
	-		_	•		•	ample, issues you would
have liked to add	dress or anal	lyze in great	ter depth or su	bjects which	were no	t so impor	rtant)?
6. How useful die	d you find th	ne software	tools presented	d at the work	shop for	your wor	k?
4 ** 6.1	2 11 6	1 0	D 1	4.37	~ > 1		
1. Very useful	2. Usef	ıl 3.	Regular	4. Not very useful	5. N at al	ot useful	6. Not sure /no
				userur	at ai	L	response
		specific asp	ects or compo	nents would	you cons	sider inco	rporating in the work of
your institution?							
8. Did you find t	he training	in REDATA	M useful for s	strengthening	g your ca	pacity to	develop applications for
the timely dissen	nination of r	nicro data?					
4 37 04	2 77 2	1 2	G. I	C 1 4 3 3	T		- N
1. Very useful	2. Usef	ıl 3.	Somewhat use	etul 4. N	lot useful		5. Not sure/no
						I	response
9. How useful d	lid von find	the works	shop for enga	ging in disci	issions 2	nd excha	nging experiences with
representatives of				o - o			9 -9 F
· -							
1 Very useful	2 Usefi	11 3	Regular	4 Not very	5 N	ot useful	6 Not sure /no

useful

at all

response

Organization of the training workshop on the construction of xPlan and Webserver Applications

10. a. Did you have access to the materials for the training workshop on REDATAM before seeing the							
presentations at this even Yes	nt?	No					
100		110					
b. Did you read them?	b. Did you read them?						
Yes		No)				
11. How would you rate explain your response so					se "poor" or "	very poor" please	
Quality of documents and materials provided	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Regular	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response	
Availability of information on the website	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Regular	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response	
Duration of the sessions and time for debate/questions	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Regular	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response	
Quality of the infrastructure (room, sound, catering)	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Regular	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response	
Quality of support from ECLAC to facilitate logistics for your participation in the event	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Regular	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response	
12. Based on the ratings						-	
13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the organizational aspects of the workshop?							
14. a. What additional technical cooperation activities in the field of statistics would you suggest that ECLAC undertake in the future?							
b. Would you like to re statistics? Yes	ceive more info	ormation al	bout activities	s or publica	ations by ECL	AC in the field of	
c. If yes, please provide yo	our e-mail addres	ss:					

Annex 3 RESPONSES TO QUANTITATIVE ITEMS

Table A.1 **Sex of Participants**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Male	12	66.7	66.7	66.7
Female	6	33.3	33.3	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.2 **Type of organization being represented**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
National Ministry	11	61.1	61.1	61.1
Other national institution	6	33.3	33.3	94.4
International Organization	1	5.6	5.6	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.3

Overall Rating of the workshop

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Excellent	10	55.6	55.6	55.6
Good	8	44.4	44.4	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.4 Rating of substantive content of the workshop

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Excellent	11	61.1	61.1	61.1
Good	7	38.9	38.9	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.5 **Did workshop live up to initial expectations**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	18	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.6 Relevance of the training to the work of your institution

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Very relevant	14	77.8	77.8	77.8
Relevant	4	22.2	22.2	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

 $\label{eq:continuous} Table~A.7 \\ \textbf{Usefulness of the software tools for participants' work}$

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Very useful	13	72.2	72.2	72.2
Useful	5	27.8	27.8	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.8
Usefulness of the training in REDATAM for strengthening capacity in the develop of applications for timely release of micro data

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very useful	14	77.8	77.8	77.8
Useful	4	22.2	22.2	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.9
Usefulness f the workshop for engaging in discussions and exchanging experiences

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Very Useful	9	50.0	50.0	50.0
Useful	8	44.4	44.4	94.4
Somewhat useful	1	5.6	5.6	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Table A.10} \\ \text{\textbf{Did you have access to the material for the workshop prior to the event and did you read it?} \end{array}$

		Did you read them?			Total
		Yes	No	No response	
Access to the materials	Yes	10	7	0	17
before the event	Not Answered	0	0	1	18
Total		1	10	7	18

Table A.11 **Quality of the documents and materials provided**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Excellent	7	38.9	38.9	38.9
Good	8	44.4	44.4	83.3
Fair	2	11.1	11.1	94.4
Not sure/ no response	1	5.6	5.6	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.12 **Availability of information on the website**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Excellent	8	44.4	44.4	44.4
Good	9	50.0	50.0	94.4
Not sure/ no response	1	5.6	5.6	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.13

Duration of the sessions and time for debate and questions

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Excellent	6	33.3	33.3	33.3
Good	9	50.0	50.0	83.3
Fair	3	16.7	16.7	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

 $\label{eq:conditional} Table~A.14 \\ \textbf{Quality of the infrastructure (sound, equipment, catering)}$

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Excellent	6	33.3	33.3	33.3
Good	6	33.3	33.3	83.3
Fair	6	33.3	33.3	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

 $\label{eq:A.15} \textbf{Quality of the support from ECLAC to facilitate logistics for your participation in the event}$

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Excellent	15	83.3	83.3	83.3
Good	3	16.7	16.7	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	

Table A.16

Interest in receiving more information about activities or publications by ECLAC in the field of statistics

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
				Percent
Yes	18	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	18	100.0	100.0	