PROJECT OVERVIEW: TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON METROPOLITAN ECONOMIC DATA: 04 NOVEMBER 2015

No.	Project	Project team	Project lead	Project Status	Project description
Improving availability and quality of data					
1	Economic classification of businesses	SARS, Stats SA, CSIR, metro officials	Dr Elizabeth Gavin (SARS)	Implementation phase	This is a SARS-Stats SA project focusing on improving the economic classification of businesses. Metros were invited to get involved. City of Tshwane, eThekwini and City of Cape Town have interacted about the project. The project involves moving to a common standard of classification aligned to the latest international standard (from SIC5 to SIC7). The methodology includes obtaining self-declaration statements from Corporate Income Tax (CIT) returns and employers registered for Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) and undertaking a telephonic survey to obtain economic classification and design interventions to improve economic self-classification. Information has been collected from approximately 11 000 CIT registered companies. The next step is to collect information from large businesses to enable tax statistics to be provided in terms of ISIC 4.
2	Physical address alignment	SARS, Stats SA, CSIR, metro officials	Dr Elizabeth Gavin (SARS)	Implementation phase	This is a SARS-Stats SA project exploring the use of physical addresses on tax returns and tax certificates to geographically disaggregate economic data. Metros were invited to get involved. Currently, physical address data is not optimally structured, and address fields in SARS processes are not fully populated. SARS has geo-referenced data for individuals (people) from physical addresses (as demonstrated in the 2014 Tax Statistics Bulletin) but there is a need to improve the accuracy and consistency of physical address information for geo-referencing purposes. SARS and Stats SA have met several times. They have discussed geo-coding methodologies. No new methods have been found (yet). There has been discussion of data sources and experimentation with overlay of existing spatially-referenced data sources, including tax data sources. Stats SA presented on this to the TWG in August 2015.
3	Disaggregated UIF information –	GTAC, Department of	Abrahams Mutedi	Concept phase	The intention is to use DoL UIF data to build a better picture of unemployment trends in time and space including job flows, structural constraints and jobs-skills mismatches.

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	scoping exercise	Labour, Stats SA.	(Department of Labour)		This research would involve correlating DoL data sets with SARS, Stats SA and metropolitan municipality data to build a more robust and nuanced picture about patterns of employment and unemployment on a spatially disaggregated basis. An initial scoping exercise is required to assess what UIF data is actually available, the quality of such data and the protocols that might be required regarding confidentiality in order to secure access to it in an appropriate form. Department of Labour officials have outlined what data is currently made available, how this is made available, what is currently not released and what IT systems are utilised by the department. There is a willingness to proceed with the scoping exercise provided that the DOL DG approves the request.
4	"Library" of sub-metro scale economic data sets and urban economic research	GTAC, Datafirst, CSIR, SA Cities Network, Code4SA	Shirley Robinson (GTAC)	Concept phase (phase two project)	A number of organizations in South Africa currently work on collating data and information relevant to regional and metropolitan development. These include the SACN whose State of the Cities Report includes an almanac of city data, Datafirst at UCT which curates a number of national data sets and the CSIR which integrates extensive data in its GAP platform and its work on StepSA. DPSA with the support of Code4SA has launched an OpenData Repository. The Library project would seek to make new data available to these repositories on an on going basis. This project is dependent on the other projects producing new data sets and is therefore part of a second phase of the Data TWG's work.
5	Enhancing the usefulness of key survey and administrative data collection processes for spatially disaggregated	GTAC, Tshwane (HL), SARS, Stats SA, DoL. Other metros.	Hendrik Labuschagne (City of Tshwane)	Implementation phase	This project explores three major areas where relatively small changes in data collection and survey processes can significantly enhance the quality of the data for the purposes of spatially disaggregated economic analysis. These are: (1) Enhancing the usefulness of Stats SA Survey data. (2) Enhancing the usefulness of DoL and SARS data. (3) Enhancing the spatial usefulness of national, provincial and metropolitan budget information.

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	economic analysis				The research questions have been determined and exploratory research is currently underway. SARS, Stats SA and Department of Labour survey instruments have been examined to determine which ones could be adapted. Item three has not been included in the scope of the current project.
Improving analysis and application of data					
6	Improving business area information – eCamp case study	Cape Town, other metros.	Claus Rabe (City of Cape Town)	Concept phase	This project seeks to share the learning about data collection, analysis and strategy development in regard to economic nodes and to explore whether innovative approaches developed by some metropolitan municipalities can be applied in other metropolitan areas. It will be driven by a case study of the Cape Town ECAMP methodology and an assessment of its potential to be replicated in other metropolitan areas. The case study along with cost implications for replication was prepared and presented to the TWG. It was also presented to the City Support Programme, NT and World Bank. This project has however stalled whilst the requisite funding to roll it out in other metros has not yet been secured. The City of Tshwane and Nelson Mandela Bay are keen to investigate to what extent the Ecamp example can be replicated.
7	Metro economic geography pilot (economic node performance, spatial investment and income profiles)	Tshwane, SARS, Stats SA, GTAC/CSP.	Namugaya Kisuule (City of Tshwane)	Implementation phase	The potential availability of anonymised SARS data linked to Stats SA census and survey data and municipal service data sets creates the potential to develop a much more refined understanding of the spatial nature of a metropolitan economy. The intention of the project is to build a spatial picture of household and firm income and employment across the metropolitan area. This will be used to develop a better understanding of the service affordability thresholds, municipal payment patterns, patterns of inclusion and exclusion and so on across the metropolitan area.
8	Township economy dynamics	GCRO, Gauteng metros with input from Cape Town	Darlington Mushongera (GCRO)	Concept phase	There is considerable political and policy interest regarding understanding "township economies" and what interventions can help to improve such economies. At the same time, the data available to support sound analysis and policy is limited. GCRO will develop a concept note / project proposal for the project in conjunction with the three Gauteng metropolitan municipalities. This project seeks to determine if the methodology

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					can be replicated for other metropolitan regions. The Gauteng project is underway, however it is still too early in the research process to write up the case study with a view to replicating the methodology.
9	Disaggregated firm-level dynamics and trends	CSIR and Ekurhuleni as part of NT/UNU Wider project	Gerbrand Mans (CSIR)	Completed	National Treasury and UNU-Wider are engaged in a series of research projects utilizing anonymised SARS data. These research projects that explore firm-level economic activity do not yet explore sub-metropolitan firm dynamics. A particular challenge flows from the fact that tax data from firms reflect economic activity that could be widely dispersed nationally as occurring at a single point. The project sought to explore disaggregated firm-level dynamics and trends by both sector/sub-sector and by spatial location utilizing a combination of SARS and municipal administrative data with a view to exploring the relationships between variables such as economic sector, firm location, employment and growth patterns. The project was to build on work already being developed by Ekurhuleni and CSIR. The project is complete, however it encountered the challenge of the listing of the head office address being associated with all economic activity of a firm and therefore did not render meaningful results. A modified approach will need to be considered.
10	Manufacturing sector dynamics at sub-metro level	eThekwini with GCRO also as part of NT/UNU Wider	Denny Thaver (City of eThekwini)	Concept phase	The project will seek to establish a much stronger more nuanced picture of spatial and temporal trends within the manufacturing sector at sub-metropolitan level based on correlating SARS, CIPC and metropolitan administrative data. The study will focus on the eThekwini manufacturing sector and will build on work already done on understanding the sector. The project will also include components focused on sub-metropolitan manufacturing sector dynamics in Gauteng and potentially Nelson Mandela Bay.

UKZN presented the methodology for the eThekwini Manufacturing study to the Technical Working Group. The results of the study were presented at the ERLN conference. This research methodology could therefore now be replicated in other metros. Correlation of data has not yet been undertaken, although the researchers have done comparison with World Bank data. |

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11	Youth employment patterns	TIPs utilising Stats SA data. Partnership with Stats SA on analysis of data. Potential additional project after DOL scoping. Further data sources can be added.	Kate Philip (TIPS)	Implementation phase	The purpose of this project is to gain insights about youth employment and unemployment patterns by depicting existing data sets in a geographically disaggregated method and analysing them. Using official Stats SA data, youth employment and unemployment patterns have been depicted geospatially for Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality as a pilot. Based on feedback from this work, a mock-up of an online portal for all metropolitan municipalities has been developed. The intention is work to make this portal live and draw from further data sources (such as UIF data). The portal will geospatially depict employment / unemployment information.
12	Firm-level data relationships and proxies	GTAC to commission researcher	Gerbrand Mans (CSIR)	Concept phase	Because of the limitations of current economic data in regard to sub-metropolitan economic activity, it will potentially be important to understand the relationships between key metropolitan economic variables in order to create a basis for using proxies for missing data. Where relationships between different types of variables are established, it becomes possible to use proxy data to better understand dynamics where directly linked data is not available.
13	Big Data Project		Harry Thema (Stats SA)	Concept phase	This project was added in August 2015. The intention is to explore whether big data (e.g. cell phone data) can offer real time insights where traditional data gathering is more costly or time consuming. An international input provided examples of how the public sector can make use of big data that is anonymised. The next step is to obtain a legal opinion in order to ensure that all work is undertaken in line with the Protection of Information Act and other legislative requirements.