

Background information sheet to Project Management Section (PMS)

1. Directorate for Projects, Economic Research and Statistics (PERS)

(until November 2019)

Directorate for Projects, Economic Research and Statistics (PERS) functioned until 24th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ECO Member States held on November 9, 2019 in Antalya, Republic of Türkiye (COM24). After COM24 endorsed the reform process of the ECO Secretariat PERS Directorate turned into Project Management Section (PMS). In fact, due to the reform process two subsections – Projects Management Section (pl see <https://eco.int/elementor-6936/section-of-project-management/>) and Economic Research and Statistics section (pl see Economic Research and Statistics web-page: <https://eco.int/elementor-6936/economic-research-and-statistics/>) – were created.

Regarding the projects by the Organization, the Treaty of Izmir (1996) Article IV says the following: “The Summit meetings shall review the objective conditions and progress in implementation of ECO programmes and projects and shall also serve as the highest-level forum for exchange of views on regional and global issues of common interest to the ECO region”.

ECO’s programmatic document ECO Vision 2025 says the following: “.. to expand project based economic activities and develop and strengthen the ECO institutions, enabling them to play a proactive role in realizing the objectives of the Organization and implementing the Vision. We also recognize the need to strengthen the ECO Secretariat for realization of our vision” (ECO Vision 2025 (2017), Section-1, p.1).

The Directorate for Projects, Economic Research and Statistics (PERS) functioned as research/statistics supporter for various activities/directorates of the ECO Secretariat. The PERS Directorate was also responsible to provide Member States with the economic and financial data and information, statistical data as well as analytical publications and papers as relate to the cooperation among them in the ECO Region.

The PERS Directorate was also in charge of monitoring the progress in implementation of ECO projects and programmes implemented in the Organization. The overall inter-agency coordination of the projects is vested with the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) of ECO, which consists of the senior management of the Secretariat. The PMG is aimed at strengthening the efficiency in development, implementation and monitoring of the projects which include also accountability and financing. It is designed to maintain regular interactions with PMUs in Executing Agencies of Member States.

The PERS Directorate established the ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT) in 2011. It collected, compiled and updated statistical information and data received from the Member States. The Directorate worked on developing a harmonized approach to the

methodology, measurements, classifications, metadata and selection criteria used by ECO National Statistical Offices (NSOs.)

The PERS Directorate also coordinated economic research studies carried out in the framework of the “ECO Joint Economic Research Programme.” The ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER) was established for implementation of the “ECO Plan of Action on Economic Research”. PERS Directorate was responsible for compilation and dissemination of two major economic publication of the Organization: “ECO Annual Economic Reports” that reflect annual economic performance of the Member States, and “ECO Economic Journal” which provides articles/papers/abstracts/reviews related to economic development and integration in the Region. The “ECO Editorial Board” is the central body of the Organization for consideration and approval of content of ECO economic publications. The ECO Research Centre (ERC) (in Baku) is also in the process of operationalization.

PERS Directorate was also engaged in capacity building and training activities aimed at enhancing the existing capacities and skills in the relevant bodies of the Member states. There has been partnerships/joint programmes with the regional and international partners such as UNESCAP, FAO, EcoMod, as well as national authorities of some Member States in this regard.