

TWINNING CONTRACT
Support to Statistics

Kosovo



MISSION REPORT

on

Information Technology System and Dissemination
Improvement of Internet Dissemination
and Strategy for presentation of geographic information

Component no 4.3.2 +4.5.3

Mission carried out by
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IPA 2012

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List of Abbreviations

KAS	Kosovo Agency for Statistics
ToR	Terms of Reference
GIS	Geographical Information System

Executive Summary

If report-core text- exceeds 4 pages

Include information to Project Leaders and the RTA.

Main conclusions and highlights from findings.

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project „Support to Statistics”. It was the third activity in the project dedicated to establishing a aggregated output database on the PX-Web platform and the first within the component 4.3.2a on GIS. The mission was aimed at defining a strategic plan for GIS forming the base of the further implementation of the project in this area.

The concrete objectives of the mission were:

Activity 4.5.3:

- Quality assurance of the public available PX-Web installation and finalizing the PX-Web installation to be published
- Updated work plan for workflows and work share between IT, dissemination and subject matter statisticians.

Activity 4.3.a:

- Detailed review of the current and future use of GIS software for dissemination at KAS
- Generate a roadmap agreeing on the strategy for the use of GIS in the future years

The consultants would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which he/she received during the stay in Kosovo, and which highly facilitated the work of the consultants.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, KAS or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

Activity 4.5.3 will ensure the following outputs:
Dissemination database published and quality assured. KAS has a clear understanding of workflows regarding the updating procedures as well as the work share to maintain the database to be updated on a regular basis.

Assessment and Results – Output database

KAS gave a presentation of the work done so far on populating the database with tables from all the subject areas. This was highly impressive work!! It is not intended / recommendable to present the full database at the launch as all the tables are not yet quality assured.

According to a previous plan and also according to users' demands it was decided to prioritize the monthly statistics on Foreign trade and Price statistics.

It would have been preferred to get the foreign trade statistics directly from the source. However, data are edited and cleaned in “Comext / EuroTrace” so it is only possible to get the data in Excel format from there. Importing trade data from Excel was tested and it worked technically well.

To make it more user friendly, however, it was decided / recommended to make a few changes in order to supply the table with additional metadata:

Commodity codes should be changed so that the column contains the code as well as the text. Country codes column should contain also the country in text.

Presentation of time

The time period should be changed from two columns (year in one and month in one) to only one column containing year and month: 2013M01, 2013M02 etc. This will make long time series possible also in graphs. It is recommended that KAS in all tables uses the same naming convention for time (20013, 2014 for years, 2013M01, 2013M02, 2014M12, for months and 2014Q1, 2014Q4) for quarterly data.

The latest observation (time) should be consistently placed either first or last in all the PX-Tables. If placed first the users do not need to scroll down to get access to the latest data. If placed last updates from excel files are easier and users will have time series / excel files with data in chronological order.

Preparation of PX-tables for presentation on maps

There were discussions on how to connect the data in PX-Web database to be presented on map. One requirement is to add codes in a separate column to all tables containing municipality distributions. The column headline will have the same name/label as the text column. In this case *Municipality* over both columns.

This also goes for countries if e.g. trade statistics shall be shown on maps, then the countries need a separate column with codes in the Excel sheet, and the label over both columns should be *Country*.

Agricultural census

At the end of year KAS plans to publish results of the agricultural census. As we understand the plans KAS will also use PX-Web to publish the results of this census. This is highly recommendable. We recommend that all other subject areas are included in the database before the agricultural census is ready so that the PX-Web is fully functional at the end of year and is completed when the agric census is added.

Short presentation / marketing folder

KAS should prepare a short folder presenting the PX-Web solution and how to extract data to be distributed to students at the university and to stakeholders in the line ministries. Inspiration can be taken from the Danish visibility material.

Adapt the look and feel

The twinning projects activity 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 has together with KAS dissemination and IT developed a visual design guide for electronic and printed publications. These guidelines should be incorporated into PX-Web before it is made public to all.

Add EU logo

Before making the system go live the EU –Twinning logo should be added to the PX-Web solution in order to inform the users that parts of the dissemination system is funded by the EU Twinning program.

Assessment and Results – Geographic Information Systems

The mission was kicked off with presentations from Statistics Denmark and the Kosovo agency of Statistics (KAS) on the current state of play regarding GIS. The rest of the activity

was mainly conducted as a workshop sharing thoughts on how to disseminate spatial data using the GIS system between KAS and the MS representative Idriz Shala. The presentations given KAS and DST are included in Annex 3.

The KAS part was presented by Mr. Idriz Shala GIS expert KAS and Mr. Burim Limolli Head of IT-Division. From Statistics Denmark the use of GIS was presented by Mr. Troels A. Vestergaard Head of Section; Statistics Denmark.

During the presentations and the workshop we experienced some differences in the data sources between the two countries but also a lot of similarities working with GIS in the production/dissemination of statistics.

During the presentation and the workshop it was concluded that KAS have very good GIS capacities and that the technical setup in the GIS system and the spatial statistics created in the GIS system are ready to be published.

Working on the future strategy for GIS in KAS it was clear that the most important task is to design and generate a dissemination platform for the GIS work in KAS.

After a meeting with Mr Burim Limolli, Head of IT – Division KAS it was clear that further studies of the workload on generating this platform is to be made before deciding on the platform.

Advantages in the development of a new platform:

1. A platform that complies with all user needs and also to include the possibility to disseminate using the NUTS-classification. The possibility to use the NUTS-classification demands a platform with higher performance than the current. To be able to live up to the INSPIRE-directive is essential for the cooperation between countries in the European area. It is vital that this trans-boundary statistics especially on the environmental area are integrated in the GIS work at an early stage. The demand for a high speed spatial dissemination platform is urgent.
2. A platform should ensure the possibility to switch between different geographical levels. So the platform can be used as a foundation for decision making on the local and national level. To make sure that the statistics from KAS is available for other authorities local, national and international
3. A new platform is necessary to create a GIS environment inside the KAS

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Recommendations regarding PX-Web

The KAS database will be developed gradually to contain all official statistics from KAS. At the launching time it will / should (at least) contain

- Detailed foreign statistics at a monthly base
- Aggregated foreign statistics – longer time series
- Price statistics at a monthly base
- Population statistics by municipality

Which variables to be included should be agreed together with the subject matter staff responsible for the statistics and they should be the variables / information most asked for from the users.

- It is recommended to decide on a launching date at the end of February 2015 and announce the date on the web site.
- It is recommended to agree on a plan for which subject areas and tables to add when.
- It is recommended to set up a training plan in-house – or backed up from the twinning project.
- It will be necessary that more people can make tables from Excel, and it is absolutely required that more staff can update the tables.
- When the release of data is changed from print/pdf to on-line release in a database it might also be time to revise the publishing calendar
- The PX-Web should cover all subject areas when the agricultural census is ready.
- KAS should develop a short visibility brochure on the PX-Databank when it is ready
- Staff in line ministries and students should be offered visibility material and / or training in the system
- Adjust the look and feel of PX-Web according to the design guidelines developed by IT, Dissemination and the Twinning project
- Add EU Twinning logo to the system before launching it to the public

Recommendations regarding GIS

After the activity the following overall recommendations can be provided:

- Continues the development of high standard GIS printed publications
- To participate in the international forum European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS)

It is recommended that KAS in the development of the dissemination platform focuses on user-friendliness and IT-performance

- To ensure that the platform is user friendly
- Allow KAS to reach the NUTS-classification standard – Trans boundary information
- To be designed as the foundation for dissemination of GIS work in KAS
- A useful source of information for local governance
- Kick off meeting / user meeting / local authorities

It is recommended that KAS collect experiences with the development of the dissemination platform from the Albanian Statistical Agency

It is recommended that the GIS dissemination platform have a link on the of the official KAS front page

The shape file status and the level of data input are also ready to be published. Therefore the main focus will be on the build-up of the dissemination platform.

Action	Deadline	Responsible
1. Creation of a platform for dissemination of KAS statistics using the GIS system	1-2. Q 2015	KAS
2. Content of the GIS dissemination platform	1-2. Q 2015	KAS
3. Data upload to platform	2-3. Q 2015	KAS
4. Publication of new dissemination platform (Atlas)	3-4. Q 2015	KAS
5. Asking users for input on the further development of the platform	After publishing first generation of the database	KAS

Annex 1. Terms of Reference



EU Twinning Project

KS12 IB ST 01

Support to Statistics

Terms of Reference:

Component 4: Information Technology System and Dissemination

Activity 4.3.2a&4.5.3: Combined mission: 1. Strategy for presentation of geographic information and 2. Development of Dissemination Database III– Organization of workflows and update procedures

Scheduling:

Tor –ready date: 19 December
 Start / end of activity: 19-22 January 2015
 Reporting time: 30 January 2015

Mandatory result of the component:

Mandatory Result	Intervention logic	Benchmarks	Sources of information	Assumptions
Mandatory Result 4.2, 4.3, and 4.5.3	<p>Developing IT system and Web dissemination</p> <p>Development of Dissemination Database</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KAS website and its user-friendliness improved by 8th project quarter • Dissemination database installed and available to the public by 7th project quarter. • Mission report uploaded on project homepage • Recommendations on future work discussed and work plan updated • Description of workflows / work share between IT staff, Dissemination staff and subject matter statisticians discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KAS website • Dissemination database • Twinning quarterly reports • Mission Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient absorption capacity • Functioning IT-technology • Low turn-over of staff involved in implementation • Staff works on project related tasks in between missions

Subject / purpose of activity: 4.3.2a activity

Description of current state of play regarding the use of GIS software to improve dissemination via the website.

Expected output of the 4.3.2a activity

Activity 4.3.2a will ensure the following outputs:

Mission report with detailed review of the current and future use of GIS software for dissemination at KAS and recommendations on future work. KAS will brief the MS experts on the current strategy for the use of GIS within KAS.

KAS will brief the MS experts on the current technical platform used for GIS and problems that may be associated with it

The MS -experts will brief KAS staff on Member States strategies on GIS and on Eurostat plans for this issue.

KAS and the MS representatives will generate a roadmap agreeing on the strategy for the use of GIS in the future years.

KAS and MS representative will discuss the possibilities for preparing GIS / Shape files that can be integrated in the

Subject / purpose of activity: 4.5.3 activity

Quality assurance of the public available PX-Web installation and finalising the PX-Web installation to be published.

Updated work plan for workflows and work share between IT, dissemination and subject matter statisticians.

Discussion on how to launch the database.

Expected output of the 4.5.3 activity

Activity 4.5.3 will ensure the following outputs:

Dissemination database published and quality assured. KAS has a clear understanding of workflows and work share to maintain the database to be updated on a regular basis.

KAS resources:

1. Mr. Burim Limolli, Head of IT - Division, burim.limolli@rks-gov.net KAS
2. Mr. Idriz Shala, GIS expert, idriz.shala@rks-gov.net, KAS
3. Mrs. Drita Sylejmani, Dissemination Officer, Drita.sylejmani@rks-gov.net.KAS
4. Mrs. Shqipe Gashi, Dissemination Officer, Shqipe.gashi@rks-gov.net, KAS
5. Mrs. Kumrije Beqiri, Dissemination Officer, kumrije.beqiri@rks-gov.net, KAS
- 6.

KAS Twinning team:

Project Leader Mr. Ilir T. Berisha, Director of Economic Statistics and National Accounts,

Ilir.T.Berisha@rks-gov.net

RTA Counterpart Ms. Teuta Zyberi, International Relations Officer, teuta.zyberi@rks-gov.net

Member state resources:

Ms Annegrete Wulff, Head of Division, Statistics Denmark, awu@dst.dk

Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen, Chief Adviser, Statistics Denmark, jej@dst.dk

Mr Troels Vestergaard, Head of Section, Statistics Denmark, tav@dst.dk

Twinning resources:

Mr Per Knudsen, RTA, pkn@dst.dk

Ms Nora Zogaj, RTA assistant, nzogaj@yahoo.com

Background

The AGA report 2012 states that there is a strong need to improve KAS' website to make it a more user-friendly and flexible dissemination tool.

Component 4 within the Twinning Project has three mandatory results to meet these needs:

Tender specification for internal network (Handled by SIDA)

KAS website and user friendliness improved

Dissemination Database installed and available

In general the activities in component 4 will address the following issues:

- Improve web dissemination for selected statistics including improvement of ASK' website to make it a more user-friendly and flexible dissemination tool;
- Develop guidelines for the design of tables and graphs, also to be applied for dissemination on the web;
- Develop a dissemination database, including more complete metadata covering different aspects related to data quality;
- Develop a strategy and recommendations for presentation of geographic visualizing statistics
- Updated work plan for the implementation of the dissemination database
- Description of workflows and work share between IT, dissemination and subject matter statisticians

Activities to be undertaken in preparation for the mission:

Prepare / agree on subject area list to be used on databank –

Prepare tables and decisions according to recommendations in report 4.5.1 and 4.5.2

KAS should decide on address of the databank. Principally there are two possibilities:

<http://ask.rks-gov.net/statbank>

<http://databank.ask.rks-gov.net/>

or different modalities of this.

Depending on the preferred option a suitable DNS entry should be prepared

List of attached documents

- Adapted Global Assessment report (AGA)
- Program of official statistics 2013 -2017
- Strategic Development Plan 2009- 2013
- Swedish Support to Statistics development at the Kosovo Agency of Statistics
- ICT in the Kosovo National Statistical System – Baseline review and Recommendations for development (Dekker)

Annex 1. Program, - January 2015

Day	Place	Time	Event
1	KAS	09:30	Introductory remarks to this part of component 4
		09:45	KAS will brief the experts on the current state of the use of GIS within KAS
		10:30	Coffee
		11:00	KAS will have a presentation about National Geoportal
		11:30	Lunch
		13:00	MS; GIS in Statistics Denmark- the organization of the work and the data sources.
		14:30	Coffee
		15:00 – 16:00	Development of Dissemination Database
2	KAS	09:00- 16:00	Continued development of Dissemination Database Continued knowledge sharing on GIS subjects
3	KAS	09:00- 12:00	Agreeing on recommendations, time plan and implied work program for BC on GIS and dissemination database Report writing Debriefing: Experts, KAS Project Leader, Component Leader, and RTA

Annex 2. Persons met

KAS:

1. Mr. Burim Limolli, Head of IT - Division, burim.limolli@rks-gov.net KAS
2. Mr. Idriz Shala, GIS expert, [idrizz.shala@rks-gov.net](mailto:idriz.shala@rks-gov.net), KAS
3. Mrs. Drita Sylejmani, Dissemination Officer, Drita.sylejmani@rks-gov.net.KAS
4. Mrs. Shqipe Gashi, Dissemination Officer, Shqipe.gashi@rks-gov.net, KAS
5. Mrs. Kumrije Beqiri, Dissemination Officer, kumrije.beqiri@rks-gov.net, KAS

RTA Team:

Per Knudsen, RTA

Nora Zogaj, RTA Assistant

Interpreter (some missions)