TWINNING CONTRACT

Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions, phase V

Bosnia-Herzegovina

STUDY VISIT REPORT

on

Short – Term Statistics
Activity 1.3.0

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List of Abbreviations

BHAS   Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FIS   Institute for Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
RSIS   Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska
ToR   Terms of Reference

Brief Summary

The main purpose of the STS study visit to Statistics Denmark was to get introduced with the experience in the field of Short-term Business Statistics, especially Construction and Trade Statistics, and Tourism statistics.

The study visit program included presentations, group discussions based on practical issues and examples that have insured to BC better understanding of the following topics:

1. Organization in Statistical Office of Denmark

2. Survey process

3. Questionnaire design

4. Deflation

5. Dissemination of data

6. Indices for construction

7. Construction cost index

8. Tourism statistics

9. Seasonal and working day adjustment

10. Q&A for Retail trade and Building permits staff

1. General comments

This study visit report was prepared within the IPA 2008 Twinning Project „Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions, phase V". Representatives of RSIS did not take part in SV for objective reasons.

Main objectives of the study visit were:

- MS shares experience with BC experts on STS (Construction and Trade Statistics) and Tourism Statistics

- Discussion on concrete issues on implementation of IPA 2008 Project and its role in improving the work in BiH statistical institutions.

- Applying MS practices in statistical institutions in BiH.

BC experts (participants of the study visit) would like to express big gratitude to all officials and individuals met, for good organisation, kind support and valuable information received during the study visit.

2. Lessons learned

During the study visit BC experts were introduced with organisation of Denmark's statistical system, organisational structure (mainly focusing on Business Statistics Sector and related sectors). The most important knowledge gained reflects on data sources available for production of statistics which include comprehensive use of data from administrative registers (almost 95%). BC find out about Statistical Information System and Register Model which comprises three main administrative registers available in Denmark: Register of Persons, Register of Dwellings and Register of Businesses. Sharing information from these three Registers is based on updating and maintaining from external sources (i.e. different agencies, public authorities). Only Denmark Statistics has access to all of three mention registers.

The subject matter of second presentation was survey process in practice. BC learnt about organisation and responsibilities of each division involved in survey process, starting from defining target population and sample frame, drawing sample, data collection, data verification and detecting outliers, estimation process and analysis of results as well as data dissemination.

Presentation on questionnaire design was particularly focused on way of creating questionnaires, functional organisation of data collection process and use of digital questionnaire in Statistics Denmark. This was very helpful having in mind intention of BiH statistical institutions to start introducing of web based surveys (data collected by email or internet).

Regarding tourism statistics, BC representatives were particularly interested in the demand side of Tourism statistics. That part of tourism statistics has not been covered in previous surveys in BiH. It is intention to develop it through IPA 2008 in accordance to relevant EU regulations.

Regarding data dissemination, BC was able to see how process of data dissemination is organized in Statistics Denmark. Data from administrative registers, questionnaires and web surveys are incorporated in Statistical Register. Sum Database data are taken from Statistical Register based on aggregating analysis. Data prepared in Sum Database are published on Statbank Denmark and website of Statistics Denmark: www.dst.dk. This is good example how BiH data dissemination system could be organized.

Regarding topic on SA and WDA BC learned on theoretical and practical examples on methods used for production of seasonally and working day adjusted time series by usage of Demetra software. MS presented to BC two methods used for seasonal and working day adjustment: X – 12 ARIMA and TRAMO/SEATS. For BC, is important to recognize the movements presented in available time series and to understand the various components of a time series (such as trend) that are estimated during seasonal adjustment.

Beside aforementioned activities that were discussed, a special part of study visit was dedicated to specific topics of interest for each subcomponent. Participants were left a great option for questions. Experts provided specific answers and practical examples. All experts

have shown willingness for continuation of cooperation and further assistance by responding to all questions sent by email.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

1. Experience gained from this SV will be used in BC further work on development of Construction and Retail Trade statistics as a part of STS and Tourism statistics.

2. Results of activities that were discussed in special sessions will be implemented in BC offices in part of responsibility of the subject matter statisticians.

3. Based on information and recommendations provided by our MS colleagues, BC will consider the possibility to implement similar procedures in BiH statistical system.

4. Importance of reaching goals based on activities planned and implemented through IPA 2008 Project, to contribute to further harmonization of BiH statistics with EU requirements.

5. Received valuable materials will be further analyzed and made available to all interested in the statistical system of BiH.

Annex 1. Programme

Tuesday 26 June   **(Venue: "Styrelseslokalet")**

10:00-12:00: Introduction to Statistics Denmark   *Charlotte Juul Hansen*

12:00-13:00   Lunch   *International Consulting*

13:00-16:00: Production of the Statistical Yearbook   *Ulla Agerskov*
                                                           Margrethe Bisgaard

Wednesday 27 June   **(Venue: "Adolph Jensen")**

10:00-12:00   dst.dk and who the users are   *Pelle Krogh*
              Usability studies, redesign of dst.dk in 2011

12:00-13:00   Lunch

13:00-14:00   Working with the statistics divisions   *Annegrete Wulff*

14:00-16:00   Statbank.dk   *Lars Knudsen*
                  - Organisation of work between
                  dissemination and subject matter
                  divisions. Management of metadata.
                  Implementation of output databases

Thursday 28 June   **(Venue: "Adolph Jensen")**

10:00-12:00: Workshop – The role of dissemination   *Jesper Ellemose Jensen*

12:00-13:00   Lunch

13:00-14:00   Production of videos and use of You Tube *Rune Stefansson*

14:00-15:00   Dealing with the press   *Carsten Zangenberg*

15:00-15:30   Debriefing/evaluation   *International Consulting*