

Long term strategy, Bosnien Hersegovina

Project BA 08-IB-FI-03



MISSION REPORT


on

Activity 3.1.1. Assessment

Mission carried out by
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List of Abbreviations

AGA	Adapted Global Assessment
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BHAS	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
CPI	Consumer Price Index
FIS	Federal Institute of Statistics of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
LFS	Labour Force Survey
RSIS	Republic Institute for Statistics of the Republika Srpska

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the state and entity statistical institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was the *first* mission to be devoted to *topic 1* within Component 3 of the project concerning preparation of the long term development strategy for the BiH statistical system.

The purposes of the activity involved:

- An assessment of the present situation regarding strategic management on the basis of the assessment in September 2011
- An assessment of the present situation regarding the quality management in BHAS, FIS and RSIS
 - Adapted Global Assessment September 2011;
 - Quality Declaration of the European Statistics Code of Practice (EU)
 - Data Quality Assessment Framework (IMF);
- An assessment of the organisational structure and the management structure and their relevance to the responsibility for data quality issues;
- An assessment of the present data documentation principles and the organisation of data on micro and macro level;
- Possible consultations with external stakeholders in order to understand the environment and the stakeholders' expectations to BHAS, FIS and RSIS.

The consultants would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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 Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

The following results were achieved:

- A presentation of the European Statistics Code of Practice and a presentation of the executive summary of the Global Assessment classified by the Code of Practice by the MS Experts were given in a workshop on 29 November
- A presentation of Integrated Economic Statistics by the MS Experts was given in a workshop on 30 November
- The priorities for the strategy of the statistical system of Bosnia and Herzegovina were assessed in a series of meetings with key staff taking the Global Assessment as the starting point;
- A High Level Workshop with a wide range of key stakeholders, as well as media representatives, was held on 1 December. The workshop allowed users and data providers to discuss the scope of the project and the role of official statistics in society;
- A lining up of work programme before the next activity (G 1.1.2) was provided, see chapter 4 below;

- A decision of the preferred timing and place of the next activity (G 1.1.2) was provided, see chapter 4 below;
- The successful opening event of the Twinning Project was carried out on 1 December

Strategic management on the basis of the Global Assessment

All three institutions are very committed to work with all the recommendations from the Global Assessment. It was agreed that a practical way forward was to classify all the recommendations from the assessment according to the CoP, to define the activities for each recommendation and to define the time schedule for these activities and the responsible unit and institutions. BHAS had made a draft for a template.

Afterwards 10 – 15 recommendations shall be made priorities in the new strategy. The timespan for the strategy will presumably be for the period of 2014 – 2020.

Cooperation with users

According to the AGA, the present legislation in the field of statistics – both at state level and entity level – is based on good international practice and gives clear rules granting professional independence. However the assessment stated that there is a need to urgently improve the public image of the statistical institutions of BiH by improved quality management (see below) and increased user orientation. There is of course contact with users in many different ways and in many different forms but the discussions concerning this topic showed a common understanding of a lack of an organised and consequently contacts with users. The MS experts suggested both regular user conferences and standing user committees. There was agreement that this topic should be one of the top priorities in the strategy.

Quality management

BHAS has produced a document ‘Implementation of the EU Code of Practice in the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina – assessment and future activities’. This document describes some priorities for implementing the EU-code of practice. It is underlined that BHAS has completely adopted the EU-code of practice and incorporated a number of recommendations into proposed amendments to national legislation and other relevant documents. The document is published on the web.

Both RSIS and FIS are committed to adopt the EU Code. In the law for RSIS some reflexions from the code are already in place, and they are working more towards the code.

There was a common agreement to use the BHAS document as a common platform to develop a common document for all partners of the statistical system of Bosnia and Herzegovina. But first all institutions need to study the paper and discuss the content.

BHAS has also produced a document concerning quality declarations for the products and guidelines for the statistical process, and they are in the work process for a paper concerning fundamental principles for confidentiality.

All three institutions agreed on the importance of working ahead of the quality issues. The first step will be taken concerning development of a common framework for quality declarations. In order to make the right framework for the statistical system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is strongly recommended to start a process in all three institutions for discussions of the framework. Furthermore there shall be a discussion between the institutions

in order to agree of a common framework. Taking the implementation of the framework into account, the discussions should also concern the definition of the most important part in the framework – parts which should be compulsory for all statistical products.

Dissemination

In the Global Assessment there are many recommendations concerning dissemination. They can be summarised in three important activities: developing a common policy covering all three institutions, develop a data warehouse (or dissemination database) for all statistical domains and develop a Statistical Yearbook for statistics covering the whole BiH.

The discussions during the meeting showed an agreement to work on the dissemination subject.

Concerning the output database there was a discussion concerning the content of the database. There was an acknowledgement concerning the need for a database covering all domains. The MS experts showed the Danish solution for a common databank for several institutions. There was a common agreement that an output database will have a high priority in the coming strategy.

Dissemination will be dealt with by special missions in the project. The determination of goals for dissemination in the strategy will await this work.

Use of administrative sources

It is stated in the AGA that both BHAS and the statistical institutes of the entities are given the right to collect primary statistical data and to access administrative records. It appears, however, that the rules concerning the mandate of data collection concerning the access to administrative data could be more transparent. Especially the need for VAT data for the business register is of high importance for the statistical system.

The discussions concerning this subject showed that use of administrative sources is very complicated and absolutely a long term work. The MS experts informed of the Danish experience in this field and confirmed that it is a difficult task that requires a strategic commitment over a longer period. But now there is a broad international commitment by statistical institutions around the world to use administrative sources where it is possible. This is based partly of the wish to reduce response burden and to reduce the cost of the statistical production.

At the meeting there was common agreement of this subject as a high priority subject in the strategy and a wish to start to map the potential administrative sources in the BiH.

Statistical domains

The development in the different statistical domains will also be an important part of the common strategy. This will be on the agenda later in the project.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

- The AGA points to need for a common Strategy
- All three institutes are eager to cooperate
- Cooperation is necessary in order to fulfill the EU acquis on statistics

- Next activity: 12-16 March 2012 In Banja Luka

Main points for agenda of next activity

- Work on common strategy
- Quality framework
- Quality reports
- Workshop with users and stakeholders of RSIS

Expected actions before next activity

Long term strategy for statistics in BiH

- Time range of strategy (2016? 2020?) should be decided
- Draft common mission & vision decided
- Values agreed
- Ca. 10 priorities agreed

Process:

- Each of the three institutes agrees internally
- Discussions together with the other institutes
- (If possible: also some consultations with stakeholders)

Quality

- The three institutions shall discuss the document ‘Implementation of the EU Code of Practice in the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina – assessment and future activities’ and agree on a common document for the whole statistical system. The result of this discussions will be presented on the next mission in March
- The three institutions will develop a common framework for quality declaration. The development will be based on the document drafted by BHAS. The framework will have to be discussed in all three institutions and a draft the framework will be presented on the next mission in march
- Complete 2 prototypes of Quality Reports
 - LFS
 - CPI

Dissemination

- Special missions will be conducted on this subject
- The Strategy should comprise a position on the following:
 - Common policy for print publications
 - How to reach different user groups
 - Statistical Yearbook for BiH
 - Statistical (dissemination) databank

Cooperation with users

The strategy should include emphasis on:

- User conference in strategy
- User input to strategy
- User committees

A document explaining the work towards the strategy and the wish to involve the users shall be prepared and send to the stakeholders of RSIS together with the invitations to the meeting with the stakeholders in the next mission.

This paper will at later missions be presented to stakeholders of FIS and BHAS,

Use of administrative sources

This is a top priority in the Strategy. Before next mission, a [matrix](#) on potential sources vs. products should be drafted:

Matrix of (potential) administrative sources

[illegible]

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

<p style="text-align: center;">Long term strategy 28th of November to 2nd of December 2011 Terms of Reference - Activity 3.1.1 EU Twinning Project BA 08-IB-FI-03</p>

Component 1	Business Statistics 1.1. Statistical Business Register 1.2. Structural Business Statistics 1.3. Construction Statistics 1.4. Retail Trade Statistics 1.5. Tourism Statistics
Component 2	Household Budget Survey
Component 3	Institutional Capacity 3.1. Long term strategy 3.2. Metadata and classification system development 3.3. Promotion of dissemination

3.1.1. Benchmark

Development Strategy (up to 10 years) of the Bosnia and Herzegovina official statistics system developed and discussed within the system by 8th project quarter.

3.1.1. Activity

Visibility of project and high level workshop on strategic management; initial assessment of current situation in relation to CoP

Purpose of activity

- An assessment of the present situation regarding strategic management on the basis of the assessment in September 2011
- An assessment of the present situation regarding the quality management in BHAS, FIS and RSIS
 - Adapted Global Assessment September 2011;
 - Quality Declaration of the European Statistics Code of Practice (EU)
 - Data Quality Assessment Framework (IMF);
- An assessment of the organisational structure and the management structure and their relevance to the responsibility for data quality issues;
- An assessment of the present data documentation principles and the organisation of data on micro and macro level;
- Possible consultations with external stakeholders in order to understand the environment and the stakeholders' expectations to BHAS, FIS and RSIS.

Expected output of the activity
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- An assessment of the priorities and signed agreement of actual needs of BHAS, FIS and RSIS;
- An MS Experts' presentation of the European Statistics Code of Practice;
- Input to a strategy of how to strengthen the quality of statistics in a broad sense;
- Input to a strategy of how to strengthen the broad perception of BHAS, FIS and RSIS as the primary and unquestioned source of official statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- A lining up of work programme before the next activities (3.1.2 and 3.1.3);
- A decision of the preferred timing of the next activities (3.1.2 and 3.1.3);