TWINNING CONTRACT

Support to the Statistics

Kosovo

MISSION REPORT

on
Support to improvement of Statistical Business Register (SBR)
Further development of Windows application
Component no 3.5.4

Mission carried out by
Søren Netterstrøm, Statistics Denmark and
24-28 August 2015

IPA 2012

Author's name, address, e-mail (keep the relevant information)

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List of Abbreviations

GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
KAS	Kosovo Agency for Statistics
KBRA	Kosovo Business Registration Agency
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities, latest version revision 2
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SBS	Structural Business Statistics
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SQL	Structured Query Language
STS	Short Term Statistics
TAX	Kosovo Tax Authorities
ToR	Terms of Reference
VAT	Value Added Tax

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project „Support to Statistics". It was the seventh mission to be devoted to the Statistical Business Register (SBR) within Component 3 of the project.

During this mission the procedures for updating with data from KBRA and TAX was reviewed as well as the procedures to handle the use of activity codes and data on turnover/employment from surveys. Special attention was given to unfinished transactions.

The consultant 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 Kosovo, and which highly facilitated the work of the consultants.

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

2. Status

The load of data KBRA and TAX was once again reviewed and executed with some minor correction, most important for units changing fiscal number, that was not handed correct in the first version.
The procedures for loading activity codes from surveys were changed. The main problem was to correctly handle multiple activity codes (second activity and other activities). These activity codes can (in accordance with the EU guidelines) only be assigned from surveys. However, it is important to ensure, that only 1 survey is used as the source for all activity code, i.e. it must not be possible to assign the main activity code from 1 survey and then add secondary activity codes from other surveys.

3. Handling unfinished transactions

As discussed in the previous report, some updates from KBRA cannot be carried out automatically for the statistical units. Instead they create an unfinished transaction that has to be handled manually.
A closer look on some of these unfinished transactions was taken in order to examine if they included cases, where rules for automatic update could be established and implemented. For those changing fiscal number it was found that the majority could be handled automatic and this was implemented.
It may be possible to further reduce the number of unfinished transaction by finding patterns that can be detected and will lead to the same processing and thus can be handled automatic.

4. Creating KAUs

This issue is discussed in the previous report but there has not been any progress.
The issue is still waiting for KAS to discuss the issue (availability of data and responsibility for handling these data).
When KAS has discussed to issue it should be handled in a future mission.

5. Potential change in administrative system

KAS has received information that KBRA and TAX has initiated a discussion on using a common identification number to replace the BR-number and the Fiscal Number.

It is at this moment not clear if this will lead to changes in the types of units being recorded by KBRA/TAX.

KAS should seek more information regarding this project and the most likely outcome in order to prepare for such changes.

The most likely outcome seems to be that there will not be any radical changes to the way data from administrative sources are used, but more knowledge on the subject is needed.

6. Online application

KAS has produced a first draft for the application that was discussed during the mission.

It should be recalled that update should be restricted to the statistical units and should be carried out using stored procedures (similar to those used for handling data from KBRA) in order to ensure the integrity of the system.

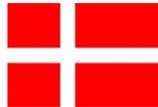The issued will be further addressed during next mission.

7. Next mission.

The next mission, to be carried out by Søren Netterstrøm is scheduled to take place from 26 October 2015.

Follow-up actions to be finalised before next mission

Action	Responsible person
Initiate discussions for KAU	Muhamet Kastrati
Further work on the online transaction	Muhamet Kastrati
Study of unfinished transactions	Muhamet Kastrati
Pseudo code updated to reflect changes	Søren Netterstrøm

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project
KS12 IB ST 01
Support to Statistics

Terms of Reference:

Component 3:   **Business Statistics**
Activity 3.5.4:   **Support to improvement of Statistical Business Register (SBR) – Further development of Windows application**

Scheduling:
ToR –ready date: **24 June 2015**
Start / end of activity: **24-28 August 2015**
Reporting time: **4 September 2015**

Mandatory result of the component:

Mandatory Result	Intervention logic	Benchmarks	Sources of information	Assumptions
Mandatory Result 3.5.2	**Support to improvement of Statistical Business Register (SBR)**	• Mission report stating the most prioritized action areas for improving the business register uploaded on project homepage • Adjusted timetable and road map for improvements developed • Recommendations for new procedures to ensure seamless updating of the SBR from available sources given • Draft of correspondence table between NACE Rev 1.1 and NACE Rev 2. Updated • Correspondence table between NACE Rev 1.1 and NACE Rev 2 finalized	• Twinning Quarterly reports • Mission reports • Roadmap • Timetable	• Sufficient absorption capacity • Low turn-over of staff involved in implementation • Staff works on project related tasks in between missions • A detailed Terms of Reference is developed in a timely manner detailing tasks (input), expected output, participants of the activity and agenda

Subject / purpose of activity: 3.5.4 activity
This mission is a continuation of the last mission on SBR in May 2015.
Last mission were primarily devoted to deal with problems during update of SBR with new data from KBRA and to establish a fully updated version of SBR ready for use.
Also a short workshop was held with key users demonstrating the possibility to use an Excel application to create standard extracts from SBR. This approach needs further fine tuning, both to the content and in order to meet requirements for data security (confidentiality). This mission will work further with these issues.
The issue of KAU (needed by National Account) will have to be further examined.
The next step in the development of SBR will be to create an online application for browsing and updating SBR. During the mission the scope of this application should be discussed and a first draft plan should be produced. It will also have to be examined if the resources and skills required are available in order to develop such an application.

Expected output of activity 3.5.4:
Mission report – describing the progress made since last mission.
Updating time table
Suggestions for Terms of reference for other activities dealing with SBR.

KAS resources:
Mr. Muhamet Kastrati, Manager of database, muhamet.kastrati@rks-gov.net

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:
Mr. Søren Netterstrøm, Business Statistics Expert, Statistics Denmark, sne@viv.dk

Twinning ressources:
Mr Per Knudsen, RTA, pkn@dst.dk
Ms Nora Zogaj, RTA Assistent, nzogaj@yahoo.com

Description of the background for the activity
This mission is based on the plan made by the MS expert and the expert from KAS during the last mission.

The expert and his KAS counterpart at the last mission concluded that now project is prolonged into beginning of March 2016, it may still be possible to reach to goal set up for this project.

During this mission the expert and KAS will continue to develop the database and the interface.

Follow-up actions to be finalised before this mission

Action	Responsible person
Review unfinished transaction and messages	Muhamet Kastrati
Update with data from KBRA late June	Muhamet Kastrati
Determine user roles for Excel application	Muhamet Kastrati
Load secondary activities	Muhamet Kastrati

Initiate discussions for KAU	Muhamet Kastrati

Activities to be undertaken in preparation for the mission:
- All reports from Component 3 Business Statistics are available at dst.dk/kosovo

The expected activities are:

- Following up on activities since last mission
- Further development of the database and the interface

Expected output:

- Mission report – according to template
- Detailed plan for further activities to be completed regarding SBR in Kosovo by the twinning program

Annex 1. Program, - August 2015

Day	Place	Time	Event
1	KAS	09.00	KAS: Current status of the SBR
		10:30	Coffee break
		11:00	Planning the week. Hands on SBR
		12:00	Lunch break
		13:30-15:30	Hands on SBR
2	KAS	09:00-16:00	Hands on SBR
3	KAS	09:00-16:00	Hands on SBR
4	KAS	09:00-16:00	Workshop with users
5	KAS	09:00	Report writing
		10:00	Debriefing: Expert, Component Leader, BC Project Leader, RTA
		10:30	Coffee break
		10:00	Report writing
		12:00	Lunch break
		13:00	Report writing

Annex 2. Persons met

KAS resources:
Mr. Muhamet Kastrati, Manager of database, muhamet.kastrati@rks-gov.net

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