

TWINNING CONTRACT

**Support to the State and Entity Statistical
Institutions, phase V**

Bosnia-Herzegovina



MISSION REPORT


on

Extended household budget survey (EHBS)

Component no 2, Activity 2.9

**Mission carried out by Markku Lindqvist, Statistics Finland
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List of Abbreviations

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BHAS	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
DEI	Data Editing and Imputation
EHBS	Extended Household Budget Survey
ESS	European Statistical System
EU-SILC	European Union Statistics on income and living conditions
FIS	Institute for Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
HBS	Household Budget Survey
ISTAT	Italian National Institute of Statistics
RSIS	Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska
ToR	Terms of Reference

Executive Summary

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project „Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions, phase V”.

The concrete objectives of the mission were:

- Discussions on how to prepare the future development plan for the production of the HBS (strategies and methods on creating and adoption of development plan-experience from Finland and EU Members).
- Revision of questionnaires - planning of future design and decreasing respondent burden. Relation with other surveys (LFS, etc.) Influence of future introduction and conduction of EU SILC survey in BiH (how EU SILC will affect the scope of HBS survey and decrease burden on HBS questionnaires in light of EU SILC).
- How to improve interviewing methods – empirical examples from EU, open diary, computer assisted interview.
- Methods of staff recruitment and better efficiency of future interviewer training (special techniques of overcoming and decreasing non-response).
- Methods for better future monitoring interviewers and supervisors.
- Harmonization of HBS with EU Methodology and Classifications
- Plan for future data analyses, publishing and documentation of following HBS.

The consultant would like to express his thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which he received during the stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, BHAS / FIS / RSIS or Statistics Finland.

2. Assessment and results

Introduction

The main objective of this mission was to assist the HBS staff to finalize the future development plan for the BiH HBS as well as to assist the staff to get agreement on HBS's future production strategy. On the other hand to increase understanding of the whole data collection process that is a very crucial stage in the whole survey process. How data collection process could be improved and strengthen especially from the minimization of non-response point of view. Alternative survey instruments, questionnaire design, interviewer training etc. have impacts on survey results and quality. Furthermore try to give a picture of ESS, what the European Statistical System is and evaluate what the present status in BiH in that regard is. One major issue was how the EU SILC possible could be integrated into the BiH survey system in future. Other topics discussed: measuring quality, quality reports, poverty measurement.

Current situation of the HBS 2011 production

Data editing and imputation (DEI) was done in cooperation with the Italian team (ISTAT) during the first half of current year so that the first preliminary report was published in July 2012. The final data consisted of 7400 households. Total consumption expenditure figures by COICOP were published as well as poverty rates based on expenditure figures in last July. Some minor logical data checks are still aimed to do during a study visit to ISTAT in next January. Standard error calculations will also be on agenda during the study visit.

Development plan and follow-up on the work done on HBS

New census is planned to carry out in BiH in 2013. The previous census was conducted more than 20 years ago. A new census will be a remarkable improvement in many ways. The new updated census data will be the sampling frame for all household surveys and will certainly help to solve problems caused by the under-coverage thus will improve the overall survey quality. The next HBS is scheduled for the year 2014. If the convergence between EU and BiH continues, also the BiH national statistical system should gradually be integrated into the ESS. Concerning ESS statistics on the distribution of income and on living conditions they are based on two data sources: HBS and EU SILC, hence there is the question how and when EU SILC should or can be launched in BiH. It should be included in the development plan and survey-program in BiH in near future.

HBS is based on Eurostat's so called gentlemen's agreement, but it is conducted in every EU-country anyway and HBSs are harmonized by Eurostat. EU SILC is the reference data source for statistics on income and social exclusion in all EU countries and it is based on a

regulation. EU SILC is conducted also in a number of non-EU countries for example in Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

The characteristics of the two surveys, HBS and EU SILC are different, but there are also overlapping elements like income variables. In connection of HBS 2011 a set of SILC questions were included in the HBS questionnaire. However it would be impossible in practice to merge those two surveys completely. Firstly that kind of system would be too massive to run on annual basis. The data contents would be too comprehensive and response burden would be heavy for the respondents that would cause high non-response figures. On the other hand there are also some technical reasons why HBS and EU SILC cannot be merged. HBS is a cross-sectional survey whereas SILC both cross-sectional and longitudinal. A part of the SILC households are interviewed in four consecutive years (panel) to be able to measure long-lasting unemployment for instance.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The optimal solution could be, when EU SILC will be launched in BiH that HBS would re-designed, lightened and streamlined simultaneously so that there would be as little overlapping data collection as possible with SILC. HBS could be a survey focusing on consumption expenditures only and would be carried out about every five years whereas SILC data would be as it is, an annual, partly panel survey focusing on income distribution and living conditions.

4. What to do before the next mission for the BC Counterpart

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
Calculation of standard errors for main aggregates.	Mid January 2013	BHAS, FOS, RSIS
Fine tuning of the minor data checks and preparation of the final data base for HBS 2011	January 2013	BHAS, FOS, RSIS, ISTAT
Dissemination plan for HBS 2011	January 2013	BHAS, FOS, RSIS, ISTAT
Analysis of trends in main HBS results.	Mid January 2013	BHAS, FOS, RSIS

5. Topics for the next meeting activity 2.7.

Activity 2.7	Dissemination plan and dissemination of results of the EHBS
Budget section	
Subject	Dissemination strategy
Methods	Consultations in how to prepare a dissemination strategy for the

	EHBS including necessary steps, activities and relation to users. Workshop on the prepared dissemination strategy. Consultations in identification of important data for users and to fulfil EU requirements.
Resources	Henrik Sejerbo (DK), Regina Deveikyte (LT)
Duration	2 persons x 4.5 working days
Output	Staff capacity increased to be able to analyse available data and to produce a range of important indicators in a suitable way (dissemination means) for users including the EU.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Extended Household Budget Survey (EHBS)

10th to 14th of December 2012

Terms of Reference - Activity 2.9

EU Twinning Project BA 08-IB-FI-03

FIS, Sarajevo, Zelenih beretki 26

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 Extended Household Budget Survey

Component 3 Institutional Capacity

- 3.1. Long term strategy
- 3.2. Metadata and classification system development
- 3.3. Promotion of dissemination

Benchmarks

- A) Previously used methods of data editing and imputation (DEI) revised, DEI methods for HBS 2011 selected for further implementation and the plan for data editing and imputation prepared by 4th project quarter
- B) Procedures for data editing and imputation finished for both categorical and continuous variables by 8th project quarter
- C) Software for DEI developed and implemented and cleaned data base ready for analysis
- D) Necessary documentation for HBS prepared as a basis for first HBS metadata
- E) HBS data analysis revised and possibly improved. Dissemination means improved
- F) Development plan for future production of the HBS and EHBS prepared in the context of other social statistics (LFS, SILC, LSMS, etc.)

2.9. Activity

Development plan and follow-up on the work done on Household Budget Survey

The expected activities are:

- Discussions on how to prepare the future development plan for the production of the HBS (strategies and methods on creating and adoption of development plan-experience from Finland and EU Members).

- Revision of questionnaires - planning of future design and decreasing respondent burden. Relation with other surveys (LFS, etc.) Influence of future introduction and conduction of EU SILC survey in BiH (how EU SILC will affect the scope of HBS survey and decrease burden on HBS questionnaires in light of EU SILC).
- How to improve interviewing methods – empirical examples from EU, open diary, computer assisted interview.
- Methods of staff recruitment and better efficiency of future interviewer training (special techniques of overcoming and decreasing non-response).
- Methods for better future monitoring interviewers and supervisors.
- Harmonization of HBS with EU Methodology and Classifications
- Plan for future data analyses, publishing and documentation of following HBS.

Expected output

- Staff prepared to finalize the future development plan for the HBS.
- Awareness and agreement on the future production strategy for HBS.
- Better understanding of future concepts and methods of improved questionnaires design, interviewing methods, recruitment, trainings and controlling of staff, HBS in light of other surveys (EU SILC), innovation in data analyses and publishing.
- Status how far BiH is in harmonizing with EU regulations.

List of Participants

Agency for Statistics of BiH

Edin Šabanović, Assistant Director in the Sector for Statistical Methodology, Standards, Planning, Quality and Coordination

Dajana Mitrović, Senior Advisor for HBS

Institute for Statistics of Federation of BiH (FIS)

Mesuda Kamberović, Head of Price Statistics Division

Nermina Ibrišević-Ademović, Head of the National Account Division

Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska (RSIS)

Sanja Panić, Senior Associate for HBS

Experts

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Agenda

10 December (Monday) – 14 December (Friday)

Time	Event	Purpose / detail
10 December 10:00	Welcome	Introduction on the program of the week All participants
	How to prepare the future development plan for the production of the HBS (strategies and methods on creating and adoption of development plan-experience from Finland and EU Members).	Expert BiH participants
	Discussion	
	Revision of questionnaires-planning of future design and decreasing respondent burden. In relation with other surveys (LFS, etc.)	Expert BiH participants
	Influence of future introduction and conduction of EU SILC survey in BiH (how EU SILC will affect the scope of HBS survey and decrease burden on HBS questionnaires in light of EU SILC).	
	Discussion	
	How to improve interviewing methods-empirical examples from EU, open diary, computer assisted interview. Methods of staff recruitment and better efficiency of interviewer training (special techniques of overcoming and decreasing non-response) Methods for better controlling interviewers and supervisors	Expert BiH participants
	Discussion	

	Harmonization of HBS with EU Methodology and Classifications	Expert BiH participants
	Plan for future data analyses, publishing and documentation of following HBS	
	Discussion	
14 December 09:00-12:00	Next mission-Which topics? What to do for the next mission?	Possible suggestions BiH Participants Expert
	Debriefing	Other issues and evaluation of the Mission Expert BiH Participants

Annex 2. Persons met

BHAS:

Edin Šabanović, Assistant Director in the Sector for Statistical Methodology, Standards,
Planning, Quality and Coordination

Dajana Mitrović, Senior Advisor for HBS

FIS:

Mesuda Kamberović, Head of Price Statistics Division

RSIS:

Sanja Panić, Senior Associate for HBS

RTA Team:

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