

Long term strategy, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Project BA 08-IB-FI-03*

## MISSION REPORT

on

*3.1.7. Long Term Strategy*  
**"Statistical experience  
of the Federal Republic of Germany"**

Mission carried out by  
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Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis)

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**Abbreviations**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| BiH  | Bosnia and Herzegovina   |
| BHAS | Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina                                |
| FIS  | Federal Institute of Statistics of the Federation of<br>Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| RSIS | Republic Institute for Statistics of the Republika Srpska                      |

## Summary

In two consecutive sessions, held on 17 and 18 September 2012, representatives of BHAS, RSIS and FIS were informed about the system of federal statistics in Germany with emphasis on its federative setting. With participation of management staff, the representatives of the three statistical authorities discussed German experiences regarding decision-making and cooperation in a system which involves the Federal Statistical Office, 14 statistical offices plus a number of other institutions in the production of statistics for federal purposes and for purposes of the European Union.

Following rather general presentations and discussions in the first session, the second day focused on the operation of business registers, use of administrative data, exchange of microdata, dissemination and quality monitoring.

It became clear that the German model of federal statistics is based on consensus among the participating authorities, that there is a strong need for coordination and, consequently, a coordinating institution and that considerable effort and time have to be devoted to coordination.

## 1. General comments

The mission consisted of two sessions. They were held on Monday, 17 September, and on Tuesday, 18 September in the conference room of the BHAS, Zelenih Beretki 26, Sarajevo. It was the 7th mission of Component 3 of the twinning project, regarding topic 1 within component 3, called "Long term development strategy for the BiH statistical system".

The mission should:

- o Give an overall picture of federalism in Germany
- o Explain the system of federal statistics in Germany
- o Show how public authorities in Germany work together in the field of statistics
- o Compare the German system of federal statistics with the statistical system in BiH;
- o Inform on recent developments in German federal statistics, particularly on new forms of cooperation, rules of procedure, bodies, as well as technical innovations.

The consultant thanks all officials and individuals he met for their interest, their support and their contributions to the discussion.

Views and observations expressed in this report are those of the consultant and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany.

## 2. Assessment and results

During the mission, presentations were given as shown in the Agenda and timetable in Annex 3.

Both Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina are special in their states' organisational principle, i.e. federalism. The mission has shown that the statistical systems of BiH and Germany are comparable in many respects. Among the similarities, the need for cooperation on a consensual basis stands out. Furthermore, "exchange of microdata" and "international representation" are issues that seem to be more familiar to federative statistical systems.

Yet there are also important differences between the German Federation and BiH: Germany consists of 16 "Länder" (lit. "countries", that means member states or federative states) whereas in BiH there are only two "Entities".

It seems that in a federative setting that involves 16 Länder (member states of the federation), consensus might even be found somewhat more easily than in BiH, because among 16 parties it is more difficult for a single party to block a decision.

*Participants requested additional informations that will be provided by the consultant to the RTA for further distribution.*

## 3. Conclusions and recommendations

From the presentations and discussions it should have become clear that coordination is indispensable for statistics in a federal setting. The need for voluntary cooperation is even better illustrated by the fact that – in Germany as in BiH – the federal (BiH: State) institutions have no binding authority on the statistical offices in the member states (BiH: Entities).

To broaden common ground, professional standards should be accepted and all parties involved should explicitly commit themselves to the production of reliable and useful data. Such common goals should facilitate the consensus on particular issues.

*As it was not the goal of the mission to promote the German federative approach in official statistics, a recommendation could only be given insofar as the various actions taken in German statistical coordination seem worthy to be tried. Such actions are:*

- *Regular meetings*
  - *on director's level*
  - *on deputy director's or head of department's level*
  - *on working level**with a clear distinction between the issues that have to be discussed on each level. That means, subject-matter issues should be discussed on working level whenever possible. Decisions should be made on the lowest possible level.*

Dissemination:

To avoid debates on who is permitted to disseminate which data, it has proved useful, apart from setting rules, to run a common dissemination website (cf. [www.statistikportal.de](http://www.statistikportal.de))

Business registers:

The German project "URS-new", meaning the shift from 16 separate registers to one register, with the possibility of access from all involved statistical institutions, could, once implemented, also be useful to BiH.

## Annex 1. Terms of Reference

### 3.1. Benchmark

The experience of the Federal Republic of Germany in the production and dissemination of official statistics – the role of the states (*Landers*) and the role of DESTATIS; division of tasks and responsibilities.

### Activity

Statistical experience of the Federal Republic of Germany – in the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. To listen about and learn from the (best) German experiences in the field of statistics in relation to cooperation between the states provinces / *Landers* and DESTATIS – the national statistical institution and about the coordinating role of DESTATIS

### Purpose of activity

The expected activities are:

Introduce the German model for producing official statistics with emphasis on:

- *Lander's* role in the production of statistics;
- Statistics produced exclusively by the states;
- Tasks and roles of DESTATIS in the production of statistics and international representation;
- Procedures, method for making decisions related to the statistics of Germany and the adoption of EU regulations;
- Distribution of tasks between *Landers* and NSI (DESTATIS);
- Quality control – management
- Dissemination method(s)
- Administration and maintenance of the statistical business register (SBS)
- The use of administrative sources

### Expected output

To gain and increase knowledge of the BiH Statisticians regarding the functioning of complex statistical systems such as German.

Application of certain experiences of Germany for a better functioning of the BiH system (preferably and in particular in the area of SBS, dissemination, quality control-management) and in preparation and development of the long-term strategy (incorporate applicable German experience in the division of work in the BiH long term strategy).

## **Annex 2 Participants**

### **Agency for Statistics of BiH (BHAS)**

**Mr.Zdenko Milinović**, Director Agency for statistics of BiH

**Mr.Sulejman Hasanović**, Head of Department for applications and database management

**Mr.Enes Hadžiefendić**, Head of Department for Statistical Methodology, Standards, Planning, Quality and Coordination

**Ms.Slavka Popović**, Deputy Director

**Mr.Edin Šabanović**, Assistant Director in the sector for statistical methodologies, standards, planning, quality and coordination

**Ms.Ivona Bulić**, Senior adviser for public awareness and marketing

**Ms.Dubravka Husić**, Head of the sector for business statistics

**Ms.Tima Karačić**, Senior Adviser for Structural Business Statistics

**Ms.Jasna Hadžić**, Head of the Department for sampling

**Ms.Jasna Samardžić**, Head of International Cooperation

**Mr.Goran Slatinsek**, Head of the sector for economic statistics

### **Institute for Statistics of Federation of BiH (FIS)**

**Ms.Hidajeta Bajramovic**, Director

**Ms.Galiba Karačić**, General Secretary FIS

**Ms.Munira Zahiragić**, Director Adviser

**Ms.Nisveta Dzebo**, Acting director fo NAtionsl Accounts

**Ms.Enisa Rastić**, Head of the Department of Business, statistical register and economic classification

**Ms.Mevla Softić**, Head of the Public Relations and Library

**Ms.Zehra Kaba**, Head of department for Journalism

**Ms.Hidajeta Čolović**, Assistant director, Sector for social service statistics

### **Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska (RSIS)**

**Dr.Radmila Čičković**, Director

**Mr.Radosav Savanović**, Deputy director

### **Twinning Project Administration 00 (387) 33/911-992**

**Ms.Bente Dyrberg**, RTA, 00 (387) 66/657-967

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**Mr.Haris Imamović**, Interpreter

### **Federal Statistical Office, Germany**

**Mr.Thomas Wöll**, Assistant head of section, national coordination and questions of principle

## **Annex 2 Agenda**

### **Day 1, 17th SEPTEMBER:**

- 11:30 - 11:45** Participants' introduction
- 11:45 - 13:30** Presentation on the federative structure of Germany, relationship between federation and member states ("Länder"), clarification of terms, historical reasons for the present setting and perspectives. Information on the relationship between statistical offices, division of responsibilities between the Federal Statistical Office and the Statistical Offices of the states and on the law regarding statistics. Questions and discussion on occasion.
- 13:30 - 14:30** Lunch break
- 14:30 - 16:00** Coordination of the German statistical system - the existing model of coordination, the legislation regulating coordination (law, agreements, protocols), coordination mechanisms (formation of working groups, meetings, video conferencing, etc.), special tasks as sampling (which institution designs and draws samples)

### **Day 2, 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER:**

- 09:20 - 10:20** Coordination of the German statistical system (continuation): The programme of federal statistics, data collection by Land offices (decentralised statistics) vs. data collection by federal office (centralised statistics); the principle of "one for all", IT and standardization of business processes, statistical portal, international cooperation. Questions and discussion on occasion.
- 10:20 - 10:40** break
- 10:45 - 11:45** Coordination of the German statistical system (continuation): Administrative sources - access to sources (legislation, protocols, agreements manner of use of administrative sources for statistical purposes)
- 11:45 - 11:55** break

- 11:55 - 12:30** Dissemination, statistical publication  
statistical portal, database, meta-information  
system
- 12:30 - 13:30** Lunch break
- 13:30 - 14:45** Statistical Business Register (SBR) and pattern  
- using SBR, the method of sample preparation  
for (conducting) a research
- 14:45 - 15:45** Quality monitoring of the official statistics in  
Germany: actions taken on institutional level  
and on working level regarding statistical  
products(Network on data quality, self  
assessment)
- 15:45 - 16.00** Closing words and observations by participants