

# Long term strategy, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Project BA 08-IB-FI-03*



## MISSION REPORT


on

### *3.1.3. Development of long term strategy*

Mission carried out by  
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## Table of contents

<b>List of Abbreviations</b> .....	2
1. General comments.....	3
2. Assessment and results .....	3
2.1 Strategy	4
2.2 Implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice	4
2.3 Quality Report for Statistical Surveys	4
2.4 Administrative sources	5
2.5 User demands	5
3 Conclusions and recommendations.....	6
3.1 Findings: Quality framework and reports	6
3.2 Strategy	6
3.3 Main priorities to be addressed in next activity	7
3.4 Next activity	7
3.5 Expected actions before next activity	7
Annex 1. Terms of Reference .....	8

## List of Abbreviations

AGA	Adapted Global Assessment
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BHAS	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
CoP	European Statistics Code of Practice
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
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## 1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the state and entity statistical institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was the *second* 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:

- Agreement on the name and the time frame of the strategy; Agreement on the draft text of a common mission, vision and values; Agreement on 10 priorities that will form the main contents of the strategy, Agree on full contents of the strategy;
- Discuss and present 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 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;
- Complete and present 2 prototypes of Quality Reports: LFS and CPI
- Presentation of findings and discussion on (potential) administrative sources of the statistics institutions in B&H;
- Meetings with users to identify and clarify areas to be included in the strategy
- Presentation-use of administrative data in the statistical production and confidentiality

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:

- Agreed and accepted a common framework document for quality "Implementation of COP in the statistical institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina", with appropriate amendments agreed during the second mission
- Agreed and accepted the draft methodology document "Report on the quality of statistical surveys", with appropriate amendments agreed during the second mission
- A presentation of Use of Administrative Sources for Statistics by the MS Experts was given in a workshop on 14 March
- A Workshop with 18 key users was held on 15 March. A presentation of 'European statistics – Code of Practice' was presented by the MS Experts. The workshop allowed users and data providers to discuss the development of statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina ;
- Agreed and accepted name of the strategy, the text of the mission, vision and values.
- Recommendations related to the first draft of the Strategy Development (Focus on CoP and users' requests)

## 2.1 Strategy

The coming strategy will be entitled '*Strategy for development of BiH statistics/2020*'. There is a general agreement of the content of both the mission, vision and values. The final editing will be done in cooperation by experts from the three statistical institutions.

## 2.2 Implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice

A first draft on a self-assessment for the Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and future activities for BHAS was prepared by BHAS. It defines five strategic goals to be achieved in the coming strategic period:

1. Professional independence and mandate to collect data
2. Meeting the needs – of both data users and data providers – has to be balanced
3. The quality of statistical products and services should be assessed and reported in a user friendly way for the majority of statistical surveys
4. Improving statistical data processing procedures – with a view to achieving quality and effectiveness
5. Commitment of the entire staff to the values of quality, lifelong learning and self-development

Each of the five planned goals is broken down into sub-goals that follow the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The implementation plan covers all European quality indicators but is presented in another order.

There was a general agreement concerning the composition of the paper, and that the other two statistical institutions will use the same template for a self-assessment and future activities concerning implementation of the Code of Practice in these organisations.

The draft from BHAS was examined and comments from RSIS, FIS and the MS experts were discussed. There was agreement of most of the comments, and they will be incorporated in the next version. However activities for the following three indicators will need a further discussion among the directors from the 3 statistical institutions:

- 2.c.4. Administrative sources are used whenever possible to avoid duplicating requests for information
- 3.c.2. A standard daily time for the release of statistics is made public
- 4.a.2. The scope, detail and cost of statistics are commensurate with needs

## 2.3 Quality Report for Statistical Surveys

A first draft of a Methodological Guidelines for preparation of Quality Reports for Statistical surveys was prepared by BHAS. The draft is based mainly on the following publications from Eurostat:

1. ESS Standard for Quality Report
2. ESS Handbook for Quality Report

There was a general agreement concerning the guidelines. The guidelines shall be used in all three statistical institutions and the guidelines are an internal work document. On the basis of this document, entity statistical institutions will prepare their methodological guidelines to be used as an internal work document. The strategic goal is to produce and publish one quality report for each survey.

The draft from BHAS was examined and comments from RSIS, FIS and the MS experts were discussed. Some comments were linguistics and some were concerning the content. It was agreed

- in the introductory section - to include recommendations on the frequency of report production and on the staff to be involved in the production of the report.
- in section 1 (Introduction to the survey) - to include each institution's QR contact details about the staff responsible, i.e. units/departments responsible for conducting a survey
- to extend the introduction with a separate chapter (1.2) containing administrative information concerning the legal basis and the division of labour among the 3 statistical institutions
- 1.4 Coverage: extend with a short description of the survey frame
- 1.7 Release of outputs: extend with information concerning dissemination in a report and/or a database
- 2 Relevance: mention if a survey is input to National Accounts
- 2.3: rename the indicator to Rate of available ESS statistics
- 3 (Accuracy): to make a distinction between measurement errors and processing errors.
- 4.1.1: remove the third paragraph
- 5.1.1: divide the table in channels and means. Change 'First release' to 'News release'.

A prototype report concerning LFS was prepared by BHAS. It was examined and comments were discussed. Most comments concerned the changes to the guidelines mentioned above, while others were comments to the content of the text. The prototype will be rewritten on basis of the revised guidelines in cooperation among the three institutions.

A prototype report concerning the Consumer Price Index has also been prepared, but it was not translated to English. This will also be rewritten on basis of the revised guidelines, and after translation to English sent to the experts for written consultation.

The experts asked for the possibilities for a pilot concerning the Retail Trade Index. QR should be prepared by domain statistician from the BHAS in cooperation with domain statisticians from the RSIS and FIS.

## **2.4 Administrative sources**

A small workshop was held concerning use of administrative sources, where the MS experts presented the Danish statistical system, as well as general principles for efficient use of administrative sources and for confidentiality. An RTA from the ITA was present because the use of information from the VAT administration would be extremely helpful to the statistics of BiH. It was concluded that a meeting with the Director of the ITA should be arranged in a future mission in Banja Luka. Before such a meeting BHAS will have to prepare a paper of how the ITA-data can be used in the statistical production and how the statistical institutions will protect the data.

On the agenda was a session concerning a presentation of findings and discussions on potential administrative sources of the statistical institutions in BiH. Unfortunately, this item was deleted from the agenda due to lack of time. We expect this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **2.5 User demands**

At the workshop, where 14 stakeholders were present, there was expressed a great satisfaction with the cooperation between the stakeholders of the RSIS. Many of the stakeholders were both producers and users of statistics, so their relations with RSIS were manifold – as data provider, as co-producer and as user. Several users expected that the on-going strategic work will ensure,

that the continuous improvement there had been concerning quality will continue in the coming years.

The following demands were expressed:

#### **Institutional environment:**

There are many producers of statistics in BiH – besides the 3 statistical institutions; there are many producers of statistics based on administrative sources. On state level e.g. the Central Bank and ITA, on entity level several others – as mentioned some of them were present at the meeting. There is a need for a mapping of the statistical activity in the country and a clear definition of the tasks for the different actors.

#### **Gaps in statistic:**

- Population Census
- Development of vital statistics according to the recommendations of WHO and Eurostat. It was stated by some users that the development of vital statistics indicators depends on the population census data.
- Coherent economic statistics for each of the entities and total for the country
- National accounts based on ESA for BiH and entities

#### **Statistical infrastructure**

Common use of a single integrated business registers. The need was expressed for using the unique identifier throughout different business registers in order to facilitate good analysis.

#### **Statistical output**

- More statistics on municipality level
- Continued improvements in timeliness
- Electronic access to data
- Direct access to data bases
- Metadata

At the end of the workshop it was underlined, that CoP shall apply to all producers of official statistics, that there is a need to establish a cooperation between producers of administrative data and the statistical institutions concerning data protection.

Users should be consulted during the coming finalisation of the strategy

## **3 Conclusions and recommendations**

### **3.1 Findings: Quality framework and reports**

- Common framework for document for quality "Implementation of COP in the statistical institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina" agreed, a few details still for further discussion
- Agreed methodology document "Report on the quality of statistical surveys"
- Agreed on prototype QR for LFS

### **3.2 Strategy**

- Name, mission, vision and values agreed
- All 3 institutes committed to cooperate on common Strategy
- User Meeting successful
- Much constructive feedback
- Scope for involving users even more

### **3.3 Main priorities to be addressed in next activity**

#### **3.3.1 Use of administrative sources**

- Matrix
- Legal access to data
- Access to VAT data is a top priority
- Organise meeting with ITA

#### **3.3.2 Metadata**

- Produce and publish quality reports
- Design common metadata system

### **3.4 Next activity**

- 24-28 September 2012 in Sarajevo.
- Main points for agenda
  - Continued work on common strategy
  - Priorities for long term strategy
  - Draft strategy document
  - Quality reports progress
  - Workshop with users and stakeholders of state and entity statistics
  - Access to VAT data
  - Visit to Central Bank and Ministry of Finance

### **3.5 Expected actions before next activity**

#### **3.5.1 Long term strategy for statistics in BiH**

- Agree on ca. 10 priorities
- Produce draft strategy
- Process: 3 institutes together
- Involve stakeholders if possible

#### **3.5.2 Quality**

- Finalise the CoP implementation paper for all three institutions
- Complete prototype on CPI and discuss with MS experts
- Prepare a quality report on retail trade index. QR should be prepared by domain statisticians from the BHAS in cooperation with domain statisticians from the RSIS and FIS.

#### **3.5.3 Cooperation with users**

- Prepare user conference on strategy
- Proposal for User committees

#### **3.5.4 Use of administrative sources**

- Top priority
- Matrix on potential sources vs. Products
- Prepare policy paper on the use of VAT data in statistics of BiH
  - Scope
  - Confidentiality
- Prepare meeting with ITA

## Annex 1. Terms of Reference

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Long term strategy</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2012</b> <b>Terms of Reference - Activity 3.1.3</b> <b>EU Twinning Project BA 08-IB-FI-03</b></p>
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Component 3	Institutional Capacity
	3.1. Long term strategy
	3.1.1 Visibility of project and high level workshop on strategic management; initial assessment of current situation in relation to CoP -Final
	3.1.2 Resource management and work plans
	<b>3.1.3 Development of long term strategy</b>
	3.1.4 Development of long term strategy II
	3.1.5 European statistical system – training course
	3.1.6 Follow-up on the work done in the project including the long-term strategy
	3.2. Metadata and classification system development
	3.3. Promotion of dissemination

### 3.1. Benchmark

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

### 3.1.3. Activity

Development of long term strategy

### Purpose of activity

The expected activities are:

- Agreement on the name and the time frame of the strategy; Agreement on the draft text of a common mission, vision and values; Agreement on 10 priorities that will form the main contents of the strategy, Agree on full contents of the strategy;
- Discuss and present 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 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;
- Complete and present 2 prototypes of Quality Reports
  - LFS
  - CPI



- Presentation of findings and discussion on (potential) administrative sources of the statistics institutions in B&H;
- Meetings with users to identify and clarify areas to be included in the strategy
- Presentation-use of administrative data in the statistical production and confidentiality

#### **Expected output**

- Agreed and accepted name of the strategy, the text of the mission, vision and values and content of the strategy
- Agreed and accepted a common framework document for quality ie. assessment of the "Implementation of COP in the statistical institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina"
- Agreed and accepted methodology document "Report on the quality of statistical surveys"
- Stakeholders - users are familiar with the importance of inclusion in statistics development strategy "
- Recommendations related to the first draft of the Strategy Development (Focus on CoP and users requests)
- Recognized and confirmed the potential administrative sources in the statistical system of BiH

#### **List of Participants**

##### **Experts**

**Mr. Lars Thygesen**, Director, Statistics Denmark (MS Component Leader)

**Ms. Kirsten Wismer**, Director, Statistics Denmark

##### **Agency for Statistics of BiH**

**Mr. Edin Šabanović**, Assistant Director-Sector for Statistical Methodology, Standards, Planning,

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

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## Agenda

**12 March (Monday) – 16 March (Friday)**

**Institute for Statistics of RS - Veljka Maldjenovica 12d, Banja Luka**

Time	Day	Place	Event	Purpose / Detail of event
<b>13:00-15:30</b>	Monday, afternoon	RZS RS	Meeting with the BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Agreement on the name and the time frame of the strategy; Agreement on the draft text of a common mission, vision and values; Agreement on 10 priorities that will form the main contents of the strategy, Agree on full contents of the strategy; BHAS; RSIS; FIS; Project Participants (DK)
<b>8:30-15:30</b>	Tuesday, morning	RZS RS	Workshop with BC Experts	Work on the framework for quality (CoP); Presentation and discussion of joint document of statistical institutions in BiH. Implementation of European Statistics Code of Practice in BiH statistical system – Assessment of current situation and future activities; BHAS; RSIS; FIS
	Tuesday, afternoon	RZS RS	Workshop with BC Experts	Presentation of findings and discussion on (potential) administrative sources of the statistics institutions in B&H; BHAS; RSIS; FIS
<b>8:30-15:30</b>	Wednesday, morning	RZS RS	Meetings with users	Work on the document report of quality; Presentation and discussion of joint document of statistical institutions in BiH on the <u>„Quality report of the statistical survey - methodological guidelines for the preparation “;</u>
	Wednesday, afternoon	RZS RS	Workshop with BC Experts	Presentation by Director Lars Thygesen- use of administrative data in the statistical production and the question of confidentiality; Presentation and discussion of 2 prototypes of Quality Reports - LFS and - CPI BHAS; RSIS; FIS
<b>8:30-15:30</b>	Thursday, morning	RZS RS	Workshop with BC Experts	Meetings with users to identify and clarify areas to be included in the strategy with a short presentation CoP i Quality Report of statistical surveys; BHAS; RSIS; FIS; Project Participants (DK)
	Thursday, afternoon	RZS RS	Meeting with the BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Next mission-Which topics? What to do for the next mission? Possible suggestions; BHAS; RSIS; FIS; Lars Thygesen, Kirsten Wismer (DK)

<b>8:30-13:00</b>	Friday, morning	RZS RS	Meeting with BC Project Leader and Experts	Presentation of results, Agreement on report. Implications for the next activities (missions); Mr. Lars Thygesen (DK), Ms. Kirsten Wismer (DK)
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