

TWINNING CONTRACT

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Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions, phase VI



STUDY VISIT REPORT

on

ESSPROS

Activity 4.6: Study visit to Latvia

Written by the participants from the three statistical institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina

28- 30 Sep 2015

Version: Final



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List of Abbreviations

BHAS	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CBBH	Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FIS	Institute for Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MS	EU Member State
RSIS	Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser

Executive Summary

The study visit for representatives of the three statistical institutions in BiH to the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia was organized in order to understand the current practice and development of social protection in Latvia and the inclusion of social protection benefits and services into the appropriate structure of the ESSPROS survey (questionnaires).

The study visit covered topics that are important for development and future improvement of ESSPROS:

1. Introduction to Statistics Latvia
2. Data Collection in Social Surveys in Latvia Using Multiple Modes Data collection
3. The system of social protection in Latvia
4. Process of implementation of ESSPROS in Latvia
5. ESSPROS qualitative information
6. Statistical Surveys of the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia
7. Collection of ESSPROS quantitative data
8. ESSPROS data sources and ESSPROS schemes in Latvia
9. Estimations in ESSPROS quantitative database
10. Data collection of ESSPROS module Pension beneficiaries and Net benefits
11. Data collection in State Social Insurance Agency
12. Quality aspects and quality requirements in ESSPROS (Quality Report, ADS)
13. ESSPROS data publication and press releases

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project "Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions, phase VI". The study visit was devoted to ESSPROS within Component IV of the project.

The purposes of the mission were:

- Gain knowledge on the experience and production on ESSPROS in Latvia
- Improving the staff's knowledge on the ESSPROS survey and compilation system incl. data collection, sources and data processing system
- Applying MS best practices in the statistical institutions in BiH

The BC experts would like to express thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which we received during the stay in Latvia. We are particularly glad that we were able to learn more about the experience of our host institution.

2. Lessons Learned

The study visit was opened by participants from the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB). General information about the national statistical system in Latvia was presented. The participants were introduced to information on the legal basis, organisational structure, missions, visions and values of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia.

Modernisation and historical background of data collection in social surveys in Latvia using multiple modes of data collection were presented to the participants. Integrated statistical data management IT system (ISDMS) which is a combination of CAWI, CAPI and CATI are used in all statistical surveys.

According to the national regulations, the main state administrative institutions responsible for the development and adaptation of ESSPROS in Latvia are the Central Statistics Bureau and the Ministry of Welfare. System of social protection in Latvia is centralised and is divided into state and local government financed and administered benefits and services which are included in 27 schemes of ESSPROS. The Central Statistical Bureau is responsible for ESSPROS methodology implementation and maintenance; data collection and aggregation for ESSPROS Quantitative Database; data for the module on Net social benefits and Number of pension beneficiaries; qualitative information (for 4 schemes) and transmission of outputs to Eurostat.

The significant flow of schemes comes from the Ministry of Welfare and the State Social Insurance Agency of Latvia. Central Statistical Bureau coordinates the updating of 4 schemes, which are managed by the Ministry of Health, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs under the Ministry of Interior, the Maintenance Guarantee Fund under supervision of the Ministry of Justice, as well as the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Considering social benefits and services, participants were introduced to how these benefits are included in each scheme of ESSPROS.

On the second half of the first day, the participants visited the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia which is the leading institution of the state administration in the areas of labour, social security, children's and family rights as well as equal rights for people with disability and gender equality. The Ministry introduced their work regarding ESSPROS. The Ministry is responsible for qualitative information for 21 schemes. Qualitative information on the national level is not published but delivered to EUROSTAT within the ESSPROS CORE system (the first time in the year 2004). The Ministry of Welfare uses ESSPROS quantitative data for international comparison and policy analysis, especially for the preparation of reports and reviews to the European Commission and other international organizations.

The second day of the study visit was dedicated to the process of implementation of ESSPROS in Latvia which started in 1996 within the framework of collaboration between Latvia and Nordic Social Statistical Committee (NOSOSCO). The first list of schemes were developed in 2003 and revised in 2006 with a total number of 26 schemes. Participants were able to see that the Central Statistical Bureau had the similar problem like the statistical institutions in BiH regarding implementation of ESSPROS concerning difficulties in understanding the logic of the development of schemes. The ESSPROS manual gives only a very general insight which means that the Central Statistical Bureau experienced problems with splitting expenditure and receipts by social protection schemes, identification of receipts, etc.

Participants were informed about quantitative data of ESSPROS, estimations in database as well as the sources for all 27 schemes of ESSPROS in details. The Central Statistical Bureau has been implementing the ESSPROS module on pension beneficiaries which contain detailed and internationally comparable information on pension beneficiaries. This information has been developed with the help of surveys conducted

by the State Social Insurance Agency of the Ministry of Welfare. The State Social Insurance Agency is a state institution under supervision of the Ministry of Welfare and it is responsible for social insurance and social services. The State Social Insurance Agency also provides data of state pensions and other pension beneficiaries. The legislation of Latvia determines that only one pension may be granted for a person and there is no possibility for double counting pension beneficiaries. In 2005, the Central Statistical Bureau started a pilot data collection on the net benefits module in cooperation with the State Social Insurance Agency. It was also interesting to hear about the data warehouse system which includes all information on social insurance and social services. This approach was especially interesting having in mind all challenges that BiH faces due to the decentralized system of social protection in BiH.

Participants were introduced to calculations of personal income tax.

The third day was dedicated to quality and quality requirements on ESSPROS (Quality Reports ADS) as well as data publication and press releases. ESSPROS quality reporting has been available since 2009 and is updated yearly. Dissemination of ESSPROS data in the form of press releases is done by type of income and expenditure. ESSPROS data are also used in other national publications (year book, facts and figures in Latvia, etc.) and EU publications (Living conditions in Europe, Eurostat monitoring report of the EU sustainable development strategy, Key figures on Europe, etc.).

3. Conclusions and recommendations

1. This study visit was a good opportunity to improve participants' general knowledge on ESSPROS. The study visit confirmed the participants' earlier visions about the complexity of this kind of survey, and especially due to the complex decentralized system of social protection in BiH. The participants acknowledged that the process of implementing ESSPROS is long and labour intensive which requires a lot of recourses, mostly time and human recourses. The great cooperation between the Central Statistical Bureau and the reporting units (Ministry of Welfare of Latvia and The State Social Insurance Agency) is one of the most important issues.
2. According to the information gained through the presentations prepared by the host colleagues, the implementation of ESSPROS has taken place since 1996 to reach today's stage incl. the great cooperation with the relevant institutions. The statistical institutions in BiH should build their methods on this knowledge, without pretermittting decisions.
3. The experience of Latvia shows that the Central Statistical Bureau received a lot support from international projects in developing ESSPROS for Latvia. The process of implementation of ESSPROS in BiH should be continued through new international projects, were the statistical institutions in BiH can get support to collect and improve the data with the help of international experts. The participants' recommend that ESSPROS as a component should be included in the new Twinning project (2016-2018) but also in other upcoming projects due to the difficult situation and structure in BiH.

Annex 1. Programme

AGENDA

OF THE STUDY VISIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA ON ESSPROS

(*WITHIN THE TWINNING PROJECT "SUPPORT TO THE STATE AND ENTITY STATISTICAL INSTITUTIONS, PHASE VI"*)

Riga, 28–30 September 2015

Monday, 28 September

Room 405

10:00 – 10:10	Opening of the meeting - <i>Mr. Kaspars Misāns Vice President Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia</i> - <i>Ms. Maranda Behmane, Director of the Social Statistics Department</i>
10:10 – 10:20	Welcome to The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia - <i>Mr. Kaspars Misāns Vice President Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia</i>
10:20 – 10:35	Data Collection in Social Surveys in Latvia Using Multiple Modes Data collection - <i>Ms. Maranda Behmane, Director of the Social Statistics Department</i>
10:35 – 10:55	The system of social protection in Latvia - <i>Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Process of implementation of ESSPROS in Latvia - <i>Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
10:55 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>

Ministry of Welfare, Room 2-301

14:00 – 14:45	ESSPROS qualitative information - <i>Ms. Solveiga Siliņa, Senior Expert of the Department of Social Policy Planning and Development, Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia</i>
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Statistical Surveys of the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia ("Survey of social services and social assistance in counties/cities". "Survey of the long-term social care and social rehabilitation services") - <i>Ms. Dace Zvirgzdiņa, Senior Officer of the Social Inclusion and Social Work Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia</i> - <i>Mr. Žanis Buhanovskis, Senior Officer of the Social Inclusion and Social Work Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia</i>
16:00 – 16:15	General discussions about the topics of the day

Tuesday, 29 September**Room 405**

09:00 – 10:15	Collection of ESSPROS quantitative data (from the start of collection till the publishing of data) <i>-Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30 – 11:30	ESSPROS data sources and ESSPROS schemes in Latvia <i>-Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Estimations in ESSPROS quantitative database <i>-Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
12.00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00– 14:45	Data collection of ESSPROS module Pension beneficiaries and Net benefits <i>-Ms. Ieva Zabarovska, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i> <i>-Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00– 16:00	Data collection in State Social Insurance Agency <i>- Ms. Evita Česka Head of Statistics Division of State Social Insurance Agency</i>
16:00 – 16:15	General discussions about the topics of the day

Wednesday, 30 September**Room 405**

09:00 – 10:40	Quality aspects and quality requirements in ESSPROS (Quality Report, ADS) <i>-Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 11:30	ESSPROS data publication and press releases <i>-Mr. Kārlis Smudzis, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Debriefing, conclusions, summary of the study visit
12:15 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00	<i>Riga Sightseeing</i>

Annex 2. Persons met

BC experts – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Slavka Popović - Deputy Director

Gorana Knežević - Senior Adviser in Department of Society Development Statistics

Azur Đapo - Senior Officer for Services

Institute for Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Hidaeta Čolović - Assistant Director for the Sector of Statistics Population and Social Statistics

Hajrudin Alić - Head of the Department for Society Development Statistics

Alma Hodo - Specialist for the research, development, innovation and information society statistics

Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska:

Radmila Čičković - Director

Bogdana Radić - Assistant Director for the Sector of Population Statistics, Education, Social Statistics and Justice

Vanja Vilipić - Senior Official for Statistics of Social Protection, Health and Gender Statistics

Twinning project:

Haris Imamović - Interpreter

MS Experts

Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

Kaspars Mišāns - Vice President Central Statistical Bureau

Maranda Behmane - Director of the Social Statistics Department

Kārlis Smudzis - Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section

Ieva Zabarovska, Senior Officer of Living Standard Statistics Section

Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia

Solveiga Siliņa -Senior Expert of the Department of Social Policy Planning and Development, Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia

Dace Zvirgzdiņa -Senior Officer of the Social Inclusion and Social Work Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia

Žanis Buhanovskis - Senior Officer of the Social Inclusion and Social Work Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia

State Social Insurance Agency of Latvia

Evita Česka - Head of Statistics Division of State Social Insurance Agency