

Chapter 18: Statistics

Progress can be reported in the area of **statistical infrastructure**. The statistical council was established with members from various institutions and academia. The government adopted a five-year statistical programme for 2008-2012 covering the national statistical system. There has been some improvement in the capacity of the State Statistical Office (SSO). The budget for 2008 was increased by 15% compared with 2007 and 17 new staff were recruited. Human resources management tools, such as assessments and training plans, have been implemented. Internal and external communication has improved. However, the human and financial resources of the SSO remain relatively weak.

Good progress has been made in the area of **classifications and registers**. The SSO began revising the economic classifications. A classification of statistical regions in line with the relevant EU standards was agreed with Eurostat. The latest international classification of diseases was introduced. The pilot business census was carried out. The basis for the statistical business register has been developed. However, no routines have been established yet to ensure that the register contains up-to-date information.

Progress has been made in the area of **sector statistics**. As regards demographic and social statistics, preparations have begun for the population census, which is planned for 2011. The planning is not yet thorough enough to ensure that the census will be carried out in a timely manner. Labour force survey results for 2006 were transmitted to Eurostat. In the field of macroeconomic statistics, work on improving the national accounts continued, but further alignment with the *acquis* is needed. In the area of business statistics, the short-term indicators on building permits were published. Furthermore, several pilot surveys were conducted on manufacturing, construction, energy, external trade and tourism. Cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank has improved; however, roles have still to be clearly defined. As regards agriculture and fisheries statistics, full data from the agriculture census were published by the end of 2007, i.e. six months after the census. For all sector statistics the gaps in quality have been addressed to only a limited extent. Reporting of statistical data to Eurostat needs to be further enhanced.

Conclusion

Overall, progress has been made towards improving both the statistical infrastructure and sector statistics. Alignment of the classifications with the *acquis* has advanced well. Further efforts are needed in order to achieve and maintain sufficient quality in the statistics.