

European Commission's Progress Report, 2020

Chapter 18: Statistics

EU rules require that Member States are able to produce statistics based on professional independence, impartiality, reliability, transparency, and confidentiality. Common rules are provided for the methodology, production and dissemination of statistical information.

The country is moderately prepared in the area of statistics. Good progress was made, especially in implementing the pilot phase of the population census and testing the new census methodology that partly relies on administrative data. Improvements are noted in all statistical areas and further aligning of sectoral statistics with EU standards. Continued efforts are needed to improve the scope and data quality of macroeconomic and social statistics. As the last year's recommendations were carried out, in the coming year, the country should in particular:

- adopt the legislation and ensure the necessary administrative capacities to carry out the population census in 2021;
- continue to align financial accounts and quarterly national accounts with the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010);
- ensure adequate staffing and sufficient financial resources for the State Statistical Office.

The legal framework for **statistical infrastructure** is broadly in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice. In 2019, the Parliament set up the Statistical Council and appointed its members. The coordination committee of national authorities responsible for conducting statistical surveys was set up. Resources of the state statistical system need to be further increased. Regarding other main statistics providers, the central bank is fully committed to the statistical standards' code of practice and is improving its capacity to apply it. The Ministry of Finance has not yet appointed a head of statistics. The IT systems are being upgraded to increase speed, interconnectivity and storage capacity. Dissemination tools were improved.

On **classifications and registers**, the main classifications comply with the EU acquis and are updated regularly. Progress was noted in the use of administrative data sources, including for preparing the population census. A population register was made operational. Data availability and quality improved but still need to be optimised. Data transmission to Eurostat further increased but remains incomplete.

The State Statistical Office (SSO) made good progress on **macroeconomic statistics**. Data on annual and quarterly GDP in current and constant prices are compiled and transmitted according to ESA 2010 guidelines, as are annual sector accounts. Seasonally adjusted quarterly national accounts should be transmitted to Eurostat. Annual sector accounts are produced in accordance with ESA 2010. Supply/use tables are regularly prepared. Progress was made in improving the government finance statistics (GFS) and the excessive deficit procedure (EDP) notifications. In the GFS and EDP data, taxes are now recorded on an accrual basis. In 2019, the financial accounts were prepared and submitted in experimental data form. The central bank produces statistics on the balance of payments and foreign direct investment according to the latest standards.

Structural **business statistics** and short-term statistics for the industry and construction sectors are well developed. The business register model is being revised and updated with a new delineation of enterprise groups. On foreign affiliates statistics (FATS), data for 2016 and 2017 were published for inward FATS. Statistics on research and development and on ICT are sufficiently aligned. For services statistics, turnover indices are now regularly produced, disseminated and transmitted to Eurostat in accordance with the regulation. On tourism, in 2019 the SSO set up a regular survey on travel by the domestic population

and data are transmitted to Eurostat. Preliminary work to set up a tourism satellite account has started. Transport statistics have improved with the transmission to Eurostat of microdata on road freight.

Good progress was made on **social statistics**, with the successful completion of the pilot population census using the combined methodology and computer-assisted personal interview. However, the Parliament has yet to adopt the census law and the census is postponed to 2021. The survey for statistics on income and living conditions is regularly carried out. Progress was achieved with improvements in social protection statistics. Migration statistics need to be further improved. Labour market statistics are largely aligned with the EU acquis. Activities are under way to improve statistics on crime, education and public health statistics. The harmonised index of consumer prices data are transmitted to Eurostat every month.

Agricultural statistics are only partly in line with the EU acquis. The farm structure survey continues to be conducted regularly. For the annual crop statistics, the EU methodology for surveys and the data-editing procedure was tested. For animal production statistics, it developed forecast and estimation models. Agro-monetary statistics are produced in line with the EU acquis. **Energy and environment statistics**, including environmental protection expenditure, waste, water, and environment-related taxes are mostly in line with the EU acquis. The country also provides short-term energy statistics and energy balances. Compilation work has begun for air emission accounts and physical energy flow accounts. Material flow accounts are generated, although material flow balances are not yet included.