



**EU Twinning Project MK/09/IB/ST/01
SUPPORT TO THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE FOR CAPACITY
BUILDING AND IMPROVING COMPLIANCE OF STATISTICS WITH
EU STANDARDS**



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What's up in 1st Quarter 2013

Dear readers,

2013 will be the main year of activity in our Twinning project. Approximately half of all activities are planned for this year and a third of the benchmarks is aimed to be reached before December.

The 1st quarter 2013 has been characterised by the preparation of these activities. Apart from implementing 11 missions altogether between January and March, the Twinning team started the organisation of more than 20 further short term missions, two study visits and one private sector contract.

Below we will provide information about the missions conducted from January to March 2013.

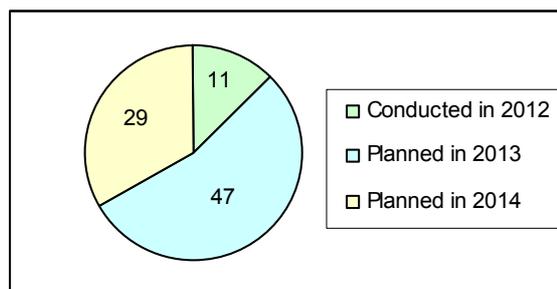
The activities in component 1 have continued with three more missions which were dedicated to the improvement of National Accounts methodologies and indicators (1.1.1.5, 1.1.1.7, 1.1.2.5).

In component 2 consultations on organic farming statistics (2.3.1.1), crime statistics (2.5.1.1) and passenger transport statistics (2.1.1) have started while the consultations on environmental protection expenditure (2.4.2) have continued with the second mission. The first project benchmark was achieved in this com-

ponent. In the 1st quarter the elaboration of the draft survey methodology and draft guidelines for External trade real price and real price import/ export indices statistics has been undertaken (mission 2.2.1) which can be considered as fulfilment of the benchmark 2.B.1.

Activities within the project components			
Component	Expert missions	Study visits	Number involved experts
1	30	1	21
2	23	2	16
3	16	2	13
4	12	1	5
Sum	81	6	55

Sum of all activities – expert missions and study visits



The starting activities in component 3 were realised in 3 of the 4 subcomponents: Quality management (3.1.1.1), Eurostat transmission programme (3.1.2) and producing thematic maps in GIS environment (3.2.1). The start in the last one, which is dedicated to ESS polices and tools for harmonising confidentiality management (3.1.3.1) is planned for the 2nd quarter.



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The activities in component 4 have continued with the first mission on electronic data collection (4.2.1).

The main event during the 1st quarter took place at its end in the form of a bilateral meeting between the heads of the offices from both main Twinning partners. On 20 March 2013, Ms. Blagica Novkovska, Director General of the State Statistical Office, and Mr. Roderich Egeler, President of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, met in Skopje to sum up the positive results from the multi-annual co-



operation and partnership in the several realised projects and discussed the future cooperation.

The following day saw the second meeting of the Steering Committee.

The members of the Steering Committee discussed and adopted the draft report on activities realised and results achieved during the 2nd quarter of the project.

In addition to the regular participants and Mr. Egeler, Ms. Gudrun Steinacker, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany could be welcomed at the meeting.



Project implementation in figures

After the acclimatisation period in summer 2012 the implementation of activities started on 17th September. Until the end of the year 2012, 11 short-term-expert missions had been carried out. The Implementation of activities has continued in 2013. This is an overview of the activities in the 1st quarter 2013. After the New Year's break the 1st activity started on 14th January.

Month in 2013	Activities realized
January	5
February	1
March	5



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The end of the 1st quarter gives us a chance to look at the current state of project realization:

Indicator	Amount on the end of the 1 st Quarter 2013
Missions realized	22
- % of total	27.2 (22 out of 81)
MS experts involved	43
BC participants	121

The number of involved MS and BC colleagues means the figures for added participants not for the physical persons. Some MS experts and many BC participants participated in more than one activity.

The realized activities have affected all components.

	Activities realized till end of the 1 st quarter	% of all in that component
Component 1	9	30.0 (out of 30)
Component 2	7	30.4 (out of 23)
Component 3	3	18.7 (out of 16)
Component 4	3	25.0 (out of 12)

Internal Evaluation

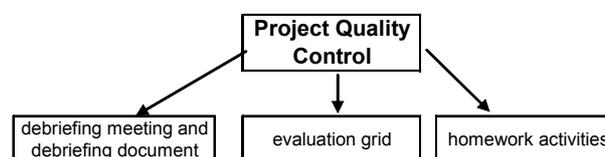
An essential part of the project management activities is the quality monitoring. In order to accomplish project goals it is not enough to implement the planned activities, it also requires

- the final agreement of all participants concerning the results of the passed

activity and the next tasks in the sub-component,

- to get some information about the opinion of the Macedonian colleagues concerning the target accuracy and
- the monitoring of the realisation of the mission recommendations.

In order to achieve this, the project management team makes use of the following tools: a debriefing meeting, the evaluation of each mission or study visit by the Macedonian colleagues and the reporting about the fulfilment of mission recommendations during the monthly meetings.



The debriefing meetings have been implemented on the basis of an initiative from the SSO and their previous experience in previous international projects. The aim of the debriefing meeting is the elaboration of a debriefing document, which contains the following items: topics discussed, results achieved, home task for both sides, comments/ recommendations to the project leaders or RTA, list of BC participants. This document is the basis for the implementation of follow-up activities and for all planning within the several subcomponents.

The evaluation of the activities is realized by a survey on the BC participants. The evaluation grid is based on another Twinning Project managed by the Federal Statistical Office and has been adapted to the specific frame conditions at the SSO. Different questionnaire tem-



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plates are being used for missions and study visits. The main parts of both questionnaires cover the following topics: Organisational environment, clearness and informativeness of the presentations, quality of the discussions and recommendations. The results of the evaluation will be presented in one of the next issues of the Newsletter.

The homework tasks, which are documented in the debriefing document, are compiled in a separate table. The fulfilment of the agreed steps is reported in the monthly meetings between the RTA team and the SSO.

Faces of the project

Bernd Richter (RTA)

In my position as RTA, I am responsible for the daily project organisation by the EU side.



Originally, I have been employed since 1992 at the Statistical Office of Saxony in Germany. My main working topics within the last 20 years have been in the fields of organisation of governmental statistics (especially in health and social welfare), usage of statistical software for production of statistical results, forecasting of population and researching work for a better usage of the available statistical data. I have obtained first multilingual experience when I attended primary school in my home valley. Beside the German population there is Sorbian people living at this place, a small Slavic minority inside Germany. Lessons on their Sorbian language had been mandatory for all

schoolchildren and still come in handy for me. I obtained first international experience from 1979 to 1983 during my studies of statistics in Sofia. The main steps of my involvement in international projects have been as Project Leader and Key expert in a Twinning Light Project on Migrations Statistics in Bulgaria (2003/04) and as RTA 2005/2006, again in the same country, in the Twinning Project “Sustainable Development of the National Statistical System in the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria”. I am convinced that there is also a life beyond the field of statistics. So one of my aims as an inhabitant of the City of Skopje is not only to restrict myself to contributions to the success of the project but also to get in touch with my “part-time home” Macedonia.

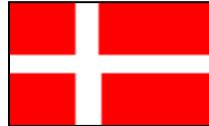
The following table provides some “language background”.

Macedonian	Sorbian ¹⁾	English
Добар ден!	Dobry źeń!	Good day!
Да/ не	Haj/ně	Yes/ no
Јас сум/ ти си/ тој е	Ja sym, ty sy, wón je	I am, you are, he is
Се викам	Ja rěkam	My name is ...
Еден, два, три	Jedyn, dwaj, tři	One, two, three
Догледање (пријатно)	Božemje!	Good bye!
Секое добро!	Wšo dobre!	All the best!

1) This refers to the Higher Sorbian Language (Obersorbisch) , which is spoken in Saxony in some villages be-



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tween the towns of Bautzen, Kamenz and Hoyerswerda. There is also a Lower Sorbian Language (Niedersorbisch).

Tatjana V.-Jovanchevska (RTA counterpart)

My role in the Twinning project is twofold and I can say that I have managed to truly build a bridge between both Twinning partners.



My regular work in the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia is within the Department for International Cooperation and European Integration. One of my duties is the position of RTA counterpart for the Twinning project

with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and its partners. In this respect, I have been involved in the project preparation from its early stages. Since the selection of the Twinning partner I have been the main contact person at the SSO for the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. I worked together closely with the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) after he started his work in Skopje in August 2012.

From January 2013 my tasks changed considerably when I was offered the chance for an EU-financed traineeship at the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, more concretely in the section for International Co-operation in Bonn. The fact that this traineeship takes place during the implementation phase of this twinning project is very useful for me to achieve a better understanding about the activities that an MS institution is obliged to do and also the activities that facilitate everyday tasks. When I will be back to Skopje in June 2013 I will be able to share this knowledge with the colleagues in my institution and integrate it into our work according to SSO's possibilities and future plans.

The possibility to work in a professional institution such as the Federal Statistical Office of Germany is a big honour and a challenge for

me. The gained experience will be essential for a better understanding of the ongoing EU-funded projects in my office, but also to be more prepared for the next projects which are dedicated to achieving our unique goal at the SSO – harmonisation with the European Statistical System.

My tasks in Germany are not limited to working on the Twinning project alone. Besides I am involved in the German cooperation with other countries as well such as a World Bank-financed project with ARKS Kazakhstan, other cooperation activities and promotion work.

Next activities in the 2nd Quarter 2013

The realization of the project goals in the next quarter will continue. Up to now 14 activities have been confirmed. More than one half of these activities is planned to be implemented within component 1.

The missions are dedicated to the improvement of National Accounts methodologies and indicators (subcomponent 1.1), to the implementation of seasonal adjustment in quarterly accounts data (subcomponent 1.2) and of the new NACE rev.2 in the National Accounts calculation. Two of them deal with the integration of sector accounts (1.1.1.8 and 1.1.1.9), in another one the compilation of accounts for financial institutions will be finished (1.1.1.3).

Further improvement of the calculation indicators; inventories (1.1.2.3), balancing of supply and use tables (1.1.2.5, 2nd part) and interpretation of bookkeeping rules in content of National accounts in the frame of a private sector contract (1.1.2.8) are the topics of the other three missions in subcomponent 1.1. The topics of the remaining missions are seasonal adjustment in quarterly account data and the practical work on transfers on National Accounts data to the new NACE.



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In component 2 two consultations have been confirmed. Concerning external trade real price and real price import/export indices the preparation of the planned survey will be continued (2.2.2).

Another important field is the data collection concerning the requirements of the EU in sectoral statistics. The second mission aims to improve the Laeken indicators for measurement of the social integration (2.5.4.2).

After the starting activities in all subcomponents of component 3 now the work will be

continued with the topics quality indicators and preparations of self-assessments (3.1.1.2) and Producing thematic maps in GIS environment (3.2.2).

The activities in component 4 will continue with drafting of data management, archiving and backup strategy (4.1.2) and the start of the assessment of the progress in the IT system development (4.2.3)

More detailed information on the planned dates and activities is available in the following overview.

Activity- No.	Contents	Date
1.1.1.3	Compilation of accounts for financial institutions (II)	27. – 31. 05. 2013
1.1.1.8	Integration of sector accounts (I)	10. – 14. 06. 2013
1.1.1.9	Integration of sector accounts (II)	08. – 12. 04. 2013
1.1.2.3	Further improvement in the calculation of indicators: inventories	17. – 20. 06. 2013
1.1.2.5 ¹⁾	Balancing of supply and use tables (SUT)	08. – 12. 04. 2013
1.1.2.8 ²⁾	Private sector contract: Interpretation of bookkeeping rules in content of National accounts	10. – 14. 06. 2013
1.2.1	Seasonal adjustment in quarterly accounts data	15. – 19. 04. 2013
1.3.1.2.	Practical work on transfers on NA data new NACE	13. – 17. 05. 2013
2.2.2	Elaboration of survey guidelines	10. – 14. 06. 2013
2.5.4.2	Improvement of Laeken indicators	08. – 12. 04. 2013
3.1.1.2	Quality indicators and preparation of self-assessments	03. – 7. 06. 2013
3.2.2	Assistance in developing of applications for production of thematic maps I	13. – 17. 05. 2013
4.1.2.	Drafting of data management, archiving and backup strategy	10. – 14. 06. 2013
4.2.3	Assessment of the progress in the IT system development (part 1)	13. – 17.05.2013

1) Second part of the mission. Due illness of one of the expert that mission was carried out in January 2013 only with one expert. After his regeneration the other expert will provide his part of the topic in one additional mission.

2) Final confirmation depends of the connected private sector contract.



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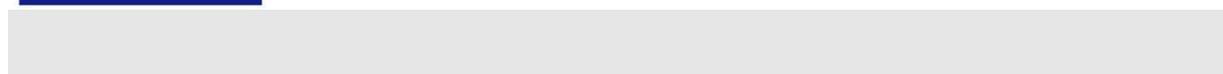


Contacts at a glance

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