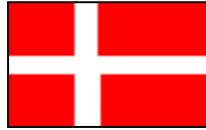




**EU Twinning Project MK/09/IB/ST/01
SUPPORT TO THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING
AND IMPROVING COMPLIANCE OF STATISTICS WITH EU STANDARDS**



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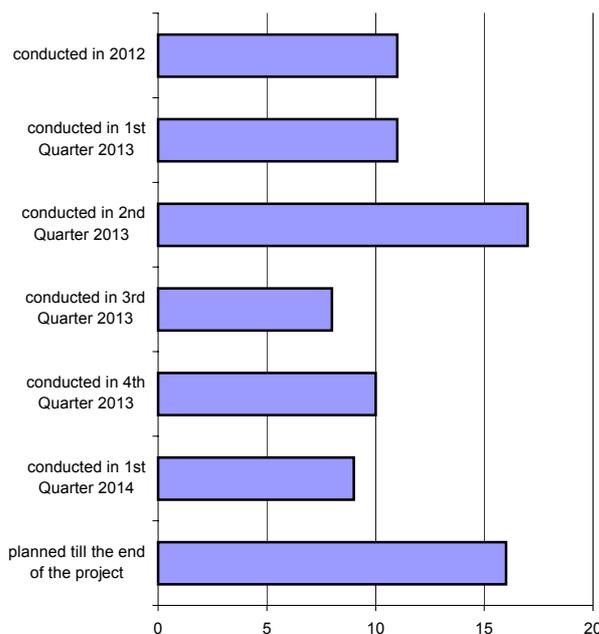
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The 1st Quarter 2014 at a glance

Dear readers,

the implementation of the project activities continued with the same dynamics and enthusiasm as in the previous year.

Short-term-expert missions in the project - current state



Nine short-term-expert missions and two study visits were conducted in the first quarter of the

New Year. That means that overall 66 of the planned 81 short-term-expert missions and four of planned six study visits are implemented till now.

The activities in component 1 have continued with four more missions. In mission 1.1.1.11 the MS experts continued discussing on topic-integration and compilation of sector accounts as well as explanation of the new ESA 2010 rules and concepts.

The mission 1.1.2.6 as last mission in the sub-component covered the topic-deflation using supply and use tables approach. MS experts emphasised problems with the distribution of VAT by type of use and have recommend to continue with annual compilation of SUT as well as to use this tool for balancing and deflation of annual figures. The MS experts recommend continuing with transparent compilation of household final consumption expenditures within the process table.

The main topics in the mission 1.2.3 were: continuation of the work regarding the seasonal adjustment in the Quarterly accounts data, publication of the experimental data and revision of data sector accounts.

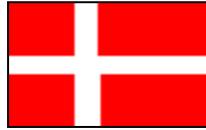
The development of the set of sustainable development indicators was major discussion subject during the mission 1.4.3

In component 2 the consultations and the assessment of survey results on passenger transport statistics (2.1.3), organic farming statistics (2.3.1.3), statistics on environmental protection expenditures (2.4.3) and external trade real price and real price import/ export indices statistics (2.2.3), continued as planned.

The two study visits of the 1st Quarter 2014 took place in Germany. The first study visit on



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Laeken Indicators (2.5.4.4) was implemented within component 2. The second study visit on improvement of process change management in line with the European Quality Standards (3.1.1.6) was conducted under component 3. A delegation led by the Director General of the Macedonian State Statistical Office, Mrs. Blagica Novkovska visited the Head Office of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden, the Information Point of Destatis in Berlin and the State Statistical Office Berlin-Brandenburg. The visit gave both sides the opportunity for mutual exchange regarding the EU Peer Review 2014/15, the questionnaire processing for self-assessment, best practices of process management in National Statistical Offices, errors in samples, standardization of data collection methods and processes for standardization in the official statistics, the statistical information system, the e-government strategy in official statistics (just to mention some topics of the study visit). The study visit was also a good opportunity to obtain an overview of the common cooperation within the project. Both project partners have identified and matched their ideas, suggestions and possibilities for additional activities, as well as the closing event of the project, which is scheduled in the beginning of July 2014.

The activities in component 4 have continued with work on implementation of a data management, archiving and backup strategy (4.1.4) as well as providing support for approval of the IT system for electronic data collection based on test implementation on four statistical surveys (4.2.6)

The 5th Steering Committee Meeting took place on 16th of January 2014. After a preliminary

presentation of the current state of the project and a first overview on the evaluations results, the component leaders presented the realized achievements. The project progress and related topics were discussed afterwards. The Quarterly Report was commented by the SC members to be adopted in the final version for approval.

Project implementation in figures

From the beginning of the year 2014 until end of March 9 short-term-expert missions had been carried out.

Month in 2014	Activities realized
January	3
February	2
March	4

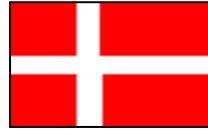
Regarding the project realization we have the following picture:

Indicator	Amount on the end of the 1 st Quarter 2014
Missions realized	66
- % of total	81.5 (66 out of 81)
MS experts involved	126
BC participants	519

The realized activities are reflected in all components:



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	Activities realized till end of the 1 st Quarter 2014	% of all in that component
Component 1	27	90 (out of 30)
Component 2	19	82.6 (out of 23)
Component 3	10	62.5 (out of 16)
Component 4	10	83.3 (out of 12)

These figures show that the project implementation is performed according to the time schedule. There is the same picture if we consider the project benchmarks. Till the end of the 1st Quarter 2014 there is scheduled the fulfilment of 11 benchmark. With one exception all these benchmarks are reached. The remaining one is achieved partially and two future benchmarks have been realized in advance already.

Component leader's perspectives



Interview with Ms. Mirjana Bosnjak, Component 2 Leader (Sub-component 2.1-2.4), Assistant to the Head of Business Statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Statistics on Environment

1. What are the key areas and project goals in your sub-components?

In the frame of the Component 2, new ratios are introduced in specific areas in the business and agricultural statistics, including the environmental statistics. With this approach, the State Statistical office will provide the beneficiaries with larger amount of statistics data necessary to create new business policies and monitor the relevant area. Another very important benefit is the expansion of the knowledge of the staff on generating these statistics.

The focus of the missions in the areas of transport, environment, prices and agriculture we intend to develop all the tools for doing regular statistic surveys, such as: passenger mobility, organic production, environmental costs and export-import prices. For all these statistic surveys we also to trial surveys through which we are testing the tools for collection of the data, preparation and selection of samples, preparation of a weighted structure, imputation process, indexes compilation process as well as analyses of the data obtained from the field.

In this project we will also increase the knowledge of how to generate new statistics and ratios for forests and forest fund management. With this activity we intend to define the concepts for introduction of new research or new variables in the current research that will enable us to produce these important ratios for sustainable development.

2. Are you satisfied with the current state of realization of the project goals?



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I am very satisfied by the implementation of the objectives we set at the beginning of the project since we timely started the planning of the activities and their implementation is in accordance with the plan.

We have carried out all four trial surveys we planned to do and now we are in a phase of analyzing the data obtained from the field. The remaining four missions have been already scheduled, which is also in accordance with the plan.

3. Can you indicate some specifics related to the activities in your component?

One of the very important benefits is the work with experts which have not only large experience in the relevant area but they also know how to share that knowledge. Furthermore, the activities between the missions and the contacts with the experts are taking place continuously and only by doing so it is possible to ensure complete implementation of the objectives set at the beginning of the project.

Very important tool introduced at the beginning of the implementation of the project tasks is the introduction of a survey questionnaire for evaluation. The results are transparent and we can see have we met the desired objective and whether the choice of the experts was right. This evaluation will further enable us to make changes that will result in better efficiency of the activities planned.

4. What is your forecast for the remaining time of the Twinning Project?

In this component we have the final missions in the area of environmental costs, the export-

import prices and the transport statistics. Although last, these missions will contribute towards finalization of the process of analysis of the output data collected from the trial surveys. There is also one more mission in the area of defining of ratios for management with forests and the forest fund.

The implementation of all the missions from Component 2 aims to contribute towards establishment of a sustainable system for further generation of large number of statistical information and ratios.

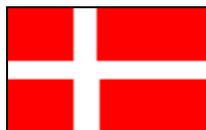
There are number of good practices in this project obtained through the work with the experts. Here we mention few of them: Introduction of new statistics and ratios, capacity building of the team in charge of preparing the content of the missions and fulfillment of the related tasks, improved procedures for securing quality statistical data, improved institutional cooperation.



Interview with Ms. Krsteva, Component 2 Leader (Sub-component 2.5), Head of Social Statistics Sector



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1. What are the main objectives to be fulfilled in your sub-component?

The topics covered within the subcomponent 2.5 are crime, health, culture statistics and Laeken indicators. All of them are very important, they cover important parts of social life in the country and the development of the statistical data that cover these areas will enable the policy makers to create the evidence based policies in these fields.

In the field of crime statistics the main goal is the assessment of the current crime statistics and the availability of the crime data for international crime data reporting, especially for EU data reporting, and creation MK and international crime codes mapping in order to facilitate the data reporting and providing data accuracy.

Health non-monetary statistics, mostly produced by the Public Health Institute, are important for providing health indicators internationally comparable so the main goal is to provide these indicators according the international needs in the field of health statistics (the activities in this subcomponent are joint with the health accounts subcomponent activities that are part of the first component).

Culture is also important part of the social living in the country and the objective of culture statistics is to provide harmonized data on culture and creativity, in the context of its contribution to employment, growth and intercultural dialogue in Europe.

The most sensitive data on poverty and social exclusion are provided through Laeken indicators produced from the EU-SILC survey. The main scope of this survey is to enable the

compilation of statistics on income distribution and indicators on monetary poverty. The SILC also serves to produce reliable quantitative information on social exclusion and material deprivation. The main goal of the twinning project is to make an assessment of the production of these indicators.

2. Has the implementation been successful so far? What has been achieved at this stage already?

The planned activities in this subcomponent have been implemented in general according to the work plan, and some of the project goals have already been achieved. In the field of Laeken indicators we have already achieved the benchmark - Laeken indicators have been assessed, and the recommendations and improvements in the field of EU-SILC data processing are given. Laeken indicators have been published for 2010 and 2011.

In the field of crime statistics mapping between MK and EU crime codes have been created and the data for 2012 have been transmitted to Eurostat.

Cultural statistics have been assessed and the main areas for their improvements have been detected.

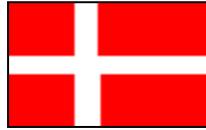
In the field of health statistics the first mission is in process of preparation.

3. Has the support from international experts been efficient?

This subcomponent covers different areas and all of them are very important for producing data that enables the presentation of the social life in the Republic of Macedonia. Even if all



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areas are linked with the social life in the Republic of Macedonia, still they are very different and it was not an easy task to provide experts that will cover all of the defined topics in this subcomponent.

However so far the Twinning team has succeeded to provide the expertise that will help the SSO to establish more accurate and more international comparable social statistical data.

4. What do you expect for the end of the Twinning Project?

This subcomponent is almost finished, and till the end of its total implementation are remained two more missions, one in cultural statistics and one in the field of health non-monetary statistics. Defined activities that follow up the mission conclusions helped a lot the sustainability of the results achieved during the Twinning activities and the future contacts with the experts will provide a solid base for future consultations in the process of further improvements and harmonization of the selected social statistics areas with EU and international standards.

Next activities in the 2nd Quarter 2014*

Activity- No.	Contents	Date
1.2.3	Seasonal adjustment in quarterly accounts data – Publication of experimental data	15. – 17.04.2014
2.2.4	External trade – real price and real price import/export indices - Further assessment of survey results	27. – 30.04.2014
3.1.3.3	Advanced usage of statistical disclosure tools	12. – 16.05.2014
3.2.8 (study visit)	Producing thematic maps in GIS environment	12. – 16.05.2014
2.3.2.2	Defining of relevant indicators for sustainable forest management – explanation of data collection process	19. – 23.05.2014
2.5.3.2	Cultural indicators – further improvements	21. – 23.05.2014
3.1.1.5	Quality management - Implementation of DESAP at SSO	16. – 20.06.2014
4.1.5	Support to implementing the data management, archiving and backup strategy (II)	1 st week of July (30.06. – 04.07.2014)

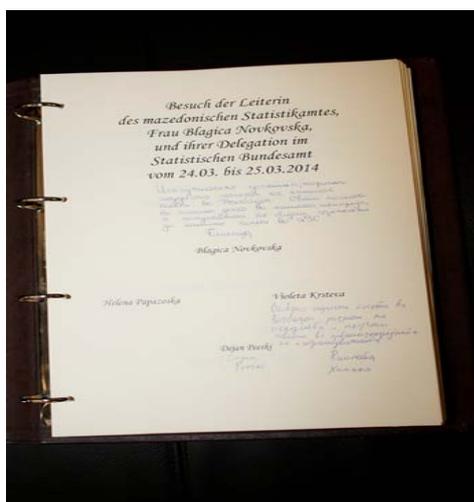
* Current state: 26th of March 2014



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Some impressions of the study visit to Destatis



Ms Blagica Novkovska with Ms Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski signed the guestbook of Destatis.



from left to right: Ringo Raupach, Dejan Peeski, Helena Papazoska, Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Blagica Novkovska, Leonhard Fix, Violeta Krsteva, Emelie Largenius, Kerstin Dietzel, Bernd Störtzbach



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We wish all our readers a nice Easter holidays!



Contacts at a glance

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		Name	Function



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