



## 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



February 2013

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pliance with the EU acquis in statistics, with a focus on national accounts, economic statistics, and social statistics. Experts from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany and Slovakia will be involved into this project.

This first newsletter aims at

- providing a short overview over the project,
- introducing the project team and the Macedonian experts and
- informing about the activities in the first months of the project till the end of 2012.

Future editions of the newsletter will inform continuously about the progress of the twinning project.

We are looking forward to fruitful cooperation for realizing the aims of the project.

Skopje and Bonn, February 2013

**Ringo Raupach**

German project leader,  
Destatis

**Blagica Novkovska**

Macedonian project leader,  
SSO

### Introductory remarks

Dear readers,

With this newsletter we would like to provide our project partners, our Macedonian and EU experts and all interested sides with information about the new twinning project between the State Statistical Office (SSO) in Skopje and the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) together with Statistics Denmark as junior partner.

This project is the next step of cooperation between Macedonian and German statistics following a first Twinning Project that has been implemented successfully from 2006-2008 and a technical assistance project from 2010-2012.

The current project started in July 2012 with a duration of nearly 28 months. The overall objective to which this project contributes is the improvement of decision-making by government institutions, businesses and citizens in the country, through producing exhaustive and comparable statistics in line with EU and international standards, aiming at further advancing of democracy and market oriented economy.

The project purpose is to develop the capacity of the State Statistical Office to improve com-

### Start and end date

<b>26.07.2012</b>	Project start
<b>17.08.2014</b>	End of implementation period (24 months for expert missions)
<b>17.11.2014</b>	End of twinning project (27 months including reporting)



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### Project structure

The project is structured into 4 components and 13 subcomponents. The components correspond with the main aims of the project.

The improvement of **national accounts** will be tackled in subcomponent 1. Component 2 deals with the improvement of a number of other statistical subject matter areas in compliance with the EU Standards. The topics covered will be **passenger transport statistics**, **external trade** real price and real price import/export indices, statistics on **organic farming**, **sustainable forest management** and **environmental statistics**. In addition, activities for producing statistical data in the fields of **culture, health, crime and social integration** have been included.

Component 3 comprises two topics: the **quality review of statistics** and the production of **thematic maps in GIS** environment.

The improvement of the IT environment of the SSO is the aim of the 4<sup>th</sup> component. The activities aim to produce the strategic foundations for the installation of a **centralized backup and disaster recovery system** and for an electronic data collection as **online service**.

The project structure is as follows:

#### Component 1: National Accounts

##### Subcomponents

- 1.1 Improved National accounts methodologies and indicators
- 1.2 Implemented seasonal adjustments in quarterly accounts data
- 1.3 Implemented NACE Rev.2 in National accounts calculation
- 1.4 Developed set of Euro/ Principal European economic indicators (PEEI) and sustainable development indicators

**30 expert missions** and **1 study visit**, 21 MS Experts are foreseen.

#### Component 2: Sectoral Statistics

##### Subcomponents

- 2.1 Passenger transport statistics
- 2.2 External trade – real price and real price import/ export indices
- 2.3 Organic farming and sustainable forest management
- 2.4 Improved environmental statistics
- 2.5 Culture, health, crime statistics and Laeken indicators for measurement of the social integration

**23 expert missions** and **2 study visits** with 16 MS experts are planned.

#### Component 3: Institutional Building

##### Subcomponents

- 3.1 Quality review of statistics
- 3.2 Producing thematic maps in GIS\* environment

\* Geographic Information System

The component comprises **16 expert missions** and **2 study visits**, 13 MS experts are included.

#### Component 4: Electronic Data Collection (Online Services)

##### Subcomponents

- 4.1 Centralized backup and disaster recovery system
- 4.2 Electronic data collection (Online services)

**12 expert missions** and **1 study visit** with 5 MS experts are planned.



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### Project management

#### Project Team – BC Management

Project Leader  
RTA Counterpart  
Senior Programme Officer (SPO)  
Deputy Senior Programme Office (SPO)  
SSO - Department for International  
cooperation and European integration  
Monitoring and reporting of the Twinning  
Project  
Monitoring and reporting of the Twinning  
project (Deputy)

Ms Blagica Novkovska  
Ms Tatjana Velkova Jovanchevska  
Ms Verka Grozdanovska Panova  
Ms Helena Papazoska  
  
MsTatjana Mitevaska  
  
Ms Makedonka Trajkova Cingarovska  
  
Ms Biljana Ristevska Karajovanovikj

#### Project Team – MS Management

Project Leader  
Junior MS Project Leader  
Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA)  
Project Manager  
RTA Assistant

Mr Ringo Raupach  
Ms Charlotte Juul Hansen  
Mr Bernd Richter  
Mr Leonhard Fix  
Ms Rajna Badeva

### Project Start

The project contract was notified on 26th July 2012 and started with a slight delay as compared to the expected date of 1st June. The RTA Bernd Richter started his secondment on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The 1<sup>st</sup> working day was the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2012. A kick-off meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 to commence the project implementation.

The purpose of the kick-off meeting was to provide all interested partners with information about the Twinning project. Both project leaders Mrs. Novkovska and Mr. Raupach gave an overview of the goals, objectives,

structure and size of the project. Additional information concerning the several components and subcomponents has been provided by the component and subcomponent leaders. The RTA Bernd Richter gave a short presentation regarding the preparation and implementation of the missions. The date for the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering committee meeting was fixed: 7<sup>th</sup> November and it was agreed to combine this with a visibility event on the premises of the EU Delegation with the aim of promoting the project among interested partners at the same day.

### Visibility Event and 1st Steering Committee Meeting

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the planned events were realized. Official addresses were delivered at the visibility event by both Project Leaders Ms. Novkovska and Mr. Raupach, by

Mr. Orav, Head of the EU Delegation, Mr. Anonovski, State Secretary, Secretariat for European Affairs, Ms. Claudia Junker, Head of the Statistical Cooperation Unit of the Eurostat



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and H.E. Ms. Gudrun Steinacker, German Ambassador. All speakers emphasized the importance of statistics as an essential tool for improvement of decision-making by government institutions, business and citizens in the country. The event was attended by officials of several Macedonian government organizations, by representatives of official statistics in Macedonia, Germany, Denmark, Bulgaria and France, by representatives of the EU-Delegation in Skopje and by Eurostat.

In the afternoon of the same day the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting took place. After a preliminary presentation of the current state of the project, the project progress in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter had been discussed. The Quarterly Report was commented by the SC members to be adopted in the final version for approval which was received on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 by the CFCD as Contracting Authority.



At the beginning of the project the first priority has been to fix the dates for planned missions. So the first mission was settled after the holiday period from 17 to 21 September. Until the end of the year 11 short-term-expert missions had been carried out.

The main field of activities were the National Accounts in component 1. Four missions were provided with the aim improvement of method-

ologies and indicators (1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.2, 1.1.1.4, 1.1.1.6), one dealt with the compilation of supply and use tables (1.1.2.4), another one with the transfer of National Account data to the new statistical classification of economic activities (NACE Rev.2) (1.3.1.1.).

Component 2 comprises the improvement of several statistical areas. The activities started with a first mission on the elaboration of the survey methodology and guidelines for real price and real price import/export indices in external trade (2.2.1) and on environmental protection expenditures (2.4.1). In Subcomponent 2.4 the current situation concerning the calculation of Laeken indicators for the measurement of the social integration has been assessed (2.5.4.1).

In Component 3, which contains the quality review of statistics and the producing of thematic maps in GIS environment, the preparations have started and the first mission will be provided during the first quarter of 2013.

The preparation of the implementation of a centralized backup and disaster recovery system has been the objective of the first mission implemented within Component 4. The assessment of the current situation (4.1.1.) and the development of a follow-up strategy (4.1.3) further contributed to achieving the objectives of this project component.





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**Next activities during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2013**

For the 1st quarter 2013 up to now 12 activities have been confirmed. The activities in component 1 will continue in the next months. Three missions are dedicated to the improvement of National Accounts methodologies and indicators (subcomponent 1.1). The first one is directed to the implementation of seasonal adjustments in quarterly accounts data (subcomponent 1.2). In component 2 consultations on organic farming statistics, crime statistics and passenger transport statistics will start while

the consultations on environmental protection expenditure will continue with the second mission. The starting activities in component 3 cover 3 of the 4 subcomponents, the start in the last one is planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The activities in component 4 will continue with the first mission in subcomponent 4.2 (electronic data collection). More detailed information on the planned dates and activities is available in the following overview.

Activity- No.	Contents	Date
1.1.1.5	Compilation of accounts for government sector and EDP tables and selected questionnaire tables	28.1.- 1.2.2013
1.1.1.7	Compilation of accounts for the Rest of the world sector	21.- 24.1.2013
1.1.2.5	Balancing of supply and use tables	21 - 24.1.2013
2.1.1.	Preparation of pilot survey on passenger transport	4. – 8.3.2013
2.3.1.1	Assessment and preparation of pilot survey on organic farming	28.1. – 1.2.2013
2.4.2	Environmental statistics – further elaboration of pilot survey methodology	12. – 15.3.2013
2.5.1.1	Crime statistics – assessment of current state	18. – 22.2.2013
3.1.1.1	Quality management and improvement – current status and European perspective	25. – 29.3.2013
3.1.2.1	Eurostat transmission programme	11-15.3.2013
3.2.1	Producing thematic maps in GIS environment – Use of Arc GIS in statistical data analysis	14. – 18.1.2013
4.2.1	Assistance in the preparation of metadata necessary for providing general purpose software for electronic questionnaires	4 - 8.3 2013

The preparation of the further work doesn't stop with the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. For the period until the end of 2013, several missions have been confirmed by now and more will be fixed during the course of the implementation.



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**Contacts at a glance**

<b>Project team Member State Name</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Project team Member Beneficiary Country Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Mr. Ringo Raupach	German MS Project Leader ringo.raupach@destatis.de Tel: + 49 228 99 643 8932	Ms. Blagica Novovska, PhD	Beneficiary Country Project Leader blagica.novkovska@stat.gov.mk Tel: + 389 2 3295 665
Mr. Leonhard Fix	German MS Project Manager leonhard.fix@destatis.de Tel: + 49 228 99 643 8936	Ms. Tatjana Velkova Jovanchevska	RTA Counterpart Macedonian tatjana.velkova@stat.gov.mk tel: + 389 2 3295 787
Ms. Charlotte Juul Hansen	Junior MS Project Leader CJH@dst.de Tel: + 45 39 17 39 37	<b>Component leaders Beneficiary Country Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Mr. Bernd Richter	Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) bernd.richter@stat.gov.mk Tel: + 389 2 3295 668	Ms. Verka Panova	BC Component 1 Leader  verka.panova@stat.gov.mk tel: + 389 2 3295 681
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