

4.18. Chapter 18: Statistics

Progress can be reported in the field of **statistical infrastructure**, as the amended Law on State Statistics was adopted in February 2007. Good progress has also been made as regards cooperation and coordination with the stakeholders of the national statistical system, as can be seen from the inclusion of the State Statistical Office (SSO) in various policy areas in the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis.

However, following the change of director of the (SSO) in the previous period, several internal changes have taken place affecting progress. The administrative capacity of the SSO remains insufficient. The budget is still low, the staff situation has barely improved and the IT equipment is largely outdated.

There has been progress as regards **classifications and registers**. The development of the statistical business register was initiated. Compliance with EU and international classifications is improving. Preparations in this area are advancing.

As regards **sector statistics**, progress can be reported as follows: For *demographic and social statistics* some work has been initiated, such as projections on the population which are to be used to improve the sampling base. As regards *macro-economic statistics*, the work on improving the national accounts continued. Cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank improved in the period, but roles still need to be clearly defined. The Consumer Price Index and the Purchasing Power Parities have made progress by improving scope and quality.

For *business statistics*, pilot surveys have been conducted on Structural Business Statistics and Short Term Statistics. For *statistics at regional level*, progress has been made by improving the quality of the Household Budget Survey. For *agriculture statistics*, the agricultural census has made substantial progress after several postponements. The enumeration phase took place in June 2007 and preliminary results have been published. Preparations in the area of sector statistics have made moderate advances.

Conclusion

Overall, progress has been made and some significant steps have been taken in priority areas. The implementation of the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis 2007 is advancing well. For further progress the administrative capacity has to be strengthened. Overall, preparations to align with the acquis in the area of statistics have advanced moderately.