

#### 4.18. Chapter 18: Statistics

There was progress as regards **statistical infrastructure**. The State Statistical Office (SSO) adopted the strategic plan for 2012-2014. Further progress was achieved in data dissemination. With 34 new employees, the share of the SSO's total staff from non-majority ethnic groups increased to 27%. The overall resource situation in the SSO needs to be further strengthened. Preparations in this area are advanced.

Progress can be reported on **classifications and registers**. Improvements were made to the quality of the statistical farm register and further progress was achieved towards the transition to NACE rev. 2 in business statistics. However, stronger interinstitutional coordination is necessary to improve compliance of administrative data with standardised classifications and definitions. Preparations in this area are moderately advanced.

Some progress was made in **sectoral statistics**. The population and housing census started in October 2011 but was interrupted and cancelled after the State Census Commission resigned (*See Political criteria, section 2.1. — Democracy and the rule of law*). As a result, there are no recent data on population and households. This has an impact on the accuracy and availability of a wide range of statistics.

Further harmonisation was achieved in the area of national accounts, including compilation of excessive deficit procedure tables, calculation of quarterly GDP and integration of sectoral data. Agreement was reached to hand responsibility for financial account statistics to the Central Bank. Coverage of balance of payments statistics was extended and harmonisation of statistics on external debts improved. Significant progress can be reported with regard to the production of business statistics, notably in the quantity and quality of the data transmitted to Eurostat. Methodological improvements were made in short-term statistics, transport statistics and agricultural statistics. However, further progress towards adoption of ESA 95 standards is needed in order to achieve full alignment. In the area of social statistics, new surveys were introduced. Preparations in the area of sectoral statistics are moderately advanced but hampered by the lack of up-to-date census data.

#### *Conclusion*

There was progress in the field of statistics, in particular on harmonisation of sectoral statistics and transmission of data. Full alignment with the acquis has yet to be achieved. The cancellation of the population census and the persistent lack of resources indicate that stronger commitment will be needed in order to make substantial progress in this chapter. The lack of up to date census data impacts on the quality and availability of data in sectoral statistics. Overall, preparations in the field of statistics are moderately advanced.