

## 4.18. Chapter 18: Statistics

*EU rules require that Member States are able to produce statistics based on professional independence, impartiality, reliability, transparency, and confidentiality. Common rules are provided for the methodology, production and dissemination of statistical information.*

The country is **moderately prepared** in the area of statistics. Some progress was achieved in the past year, notably in the alignment of sectoral statistics with EU standards.

Continued efforts are needed to improve the quality of data in the areas of macro-economic and social statistics as well as for full harmonisation with the *EU acquis*. In addressing the shortcomings outlined below, in the coming year, the country should in particular:

- further strengthen human and financial resources of the State Statistical Office;
- further align statistics with the European System of Accounts 2010;
- transmit tables for the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) to Eurostat.

As regards **statistical infrastructure**, the legal framework is broadly in line with the European statistics Code of Practice. The State Statistical Office (SSO) is the main producer and coordinator of statistics. Its professional independence is enshrined in law but needs to be strengthened in practice, including through adequate resourcing. Other producers of statistics are the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance, which have signed Memoranda of Understanding with the SSO. The main classifications are in compliance with the EU acquis and upgraded regularly. The availability and quality of administrative data sources remains a problem. Data transmission to Eurostat increased in terms of coverage.

In the field of **macro-economic statistics** the SSO currently compiles annual and quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) data in current and constant prices. Annual sector accounts and supply/use tables are compiled. Further efforts are required to harmonise government finance statistics and produce quarterly sector accounts. Excessive deficit procedure notifications are not yet transmitted and financial accounts are not yet produced. Statistics on the balance of payments and on foreign direct investment are compiled by the Central Bank according to the latest standards (6th Balance of Payments Manual). The harmonised index of consumer prices and purchasing power parities are aligned.

Structural **business statistics** and short-term statistics for the sectors of industry and construction are well developed but additional quality improvements are needed as well as the introduction of short-term statistics for services and overall, an increased coverage of variables. The business register represents a good basis for sampling and data delivery but needs more frequent updating. Foreign affiliates statistics are not available. Further alignment is needed in tourism and transport statistics. Research and development data and ICT statistics are sufficiently aligned with the EU acquis.

In the field of **social statistics**, in May 2015 the SSO started preparing an up to date sample frame for social surveys by collecting data on the number, type and territorial distribution of dwellings and households, as well as the number of persons living in the recorded households in selected enumeration areas. The main deficiency continues to be the lack of reliable and recent population data, affecting the quality of household surveys and per capita data. Migration statistics need to be developed. The survey of income and living

conditions is implemented and there was progress in implementing social protection statistics. Labour market statistics are broadly aligned with the EU acquis. Crime, education and public health statistics are not yet aligned.

**Statistics on agricultural production** are partially produced according to the EU acquis. The farm structure survey is conducted regularly. Agro-monetary statistics according to EU standards are in place but supply balance sheets are not yet produced.

**Energy statistics** are largely in line with the EU acquis. Short-term energy statistics and energy balances are produced. Statistics on waste, water and on environmental protection expenditure are published. Material flow balances are not yet produced.