

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 efficiency of data collection and the alignment of sectoral statistics with EU standards. Continued efforts remain necessary 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 a full set of 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)'s professional independence is enshrined in law but needs to be strengthened in practice, including through adequate resourcing. The other main producers of official statistics, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance, have signed Memoranda of Understanding with the SSO. Main classifications are in compliance with the EU *acquis* and updated regularly. The SSO significantly improved the efficiency of data collection but 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), in current and constant prices, aligned with ESA 2010. 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 only partially 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.

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 its quality can be improved further. Foreign affiliates' statistics are not available. Further alignment is needed in tourism and transport statistics. Research and development data and Information and Communication Technologies statistics are sufficiently aligned with the EU *acquis*.

In the field of **social statistics**, the SSO has created a sample frame for social surveys with a new method. A population census was not carried out in the previous census round; although population data are regularly produced, the missing information from a recent population census affects the quality of a wide range of statistics. 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* but crime, education and public health statistics are not yet aligned.

Statistics on agricultural production are partially produced according to the EU *acquis* and the farm structure survey is conducted regularly. Agro-monetary statistics according to the EU *acquis* are in place but supply balance sheets are not yet produced. Annual crop statistics need to be aligned with the EU *acquis*. **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 but material flow balances are not yet produced.