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IMPROVING THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

PROJECT

(IPDS)

EUROPEAID/139628/DH/SER/MK

2019/404709



PROJECT NEWSLETTER No 1

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INTRODUCTION

This Newsletter, as part of the IPDS Project Communication and Visibility Plan, aims to provide information about the project progress, as well as other relevant information for the Project Stakeholders and the General Public. New issues will be made every 6 months, covering each Project Interim Period or more frequently, if there is an occasion. The Language will be the official language of the project – English.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Basic Project data:

<u>Beneficiary institution:</u>	State Statistical Office of Republic of North Macedonia
<u>Contracting Authority:</u>	Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia
<u>Implementing Consortium:</u>	BIM Consulting (BG), National Statistical Institute (BG)
<u>Contract value (€):</u>	1 648 500
<u>Start date:</u>	18.02.2019
<u>End date:</u>	17.02.2022
<u>Overall Duration:</u>	36 months/ 3 years
<u>Project website:</u>	http://www.stat.gov.mk/ZaNas.aspx?id=15

Overall objective of the project

The overall objective of the project is to improve the quality and availability of statistical data and enhance their use in development and coordination of public policies.

Specific objectives of the project

The specific purpose of this project is to further support the State Statistical Office of Republic of North Macedonia in harmonization with EU acquis and upgrading its statistical and ICT infrastructure for increased efficiency of the statistical production and improved data quality in order to respond better to emerging challenges from the changing EU acquis.

Components of the project

Component 1: Further alignment with the EU standards in the field of macro-economic statistics will improve the existing methodology according to the recommendations of ESA 2010 about quality of national accounts data, ESA 2010 methodology and data provided to Eurostat according



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to the transmission programme that defines the accounts and tables that are to be provided by all EU member states according to specific deadlines

Component 2: Further alignment with EU standards in the field of business statistics will aim to improve quality of the SBR and to introduce the satellite account for tourism. It consists of two subcomponents: 2A (Statistical Business Register) and 2B (Tourism Satellite Accounts)

Component 3: Further alignment with EU standards in the field of social statistics will aim provide quality assurance of all phases of the Census in alignment with the CES Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing and EU Regulations, as well as to increase confidence of the census results

Component 4: Further improved ICT infrastructure will aim to reengineer the statistical IT system in line with EU and international standards, increasing the system efficiency and safety, speeding up and lowering the cost of the data production, improving the accuracy and timeliness of data and the processing of surveys. This component is divided into 3 subcomponents (A Revising and drafting functional specification for re-engineered IT system for statistical production, IT system development and evaluation of deliverables; B Developing the IT system for Statistical Business Register; C Preparation of technical specification for supply contract for replacement of the computer network, the data centre and equipment for the Disaster Recovery Centre)

Expected results (Project Deliverables):

Component 1: National Accounts

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) tables prepared and transmitted to EUROSTAT in accordance to the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010) rules

Component 2A: Statistical Business Register

New Statistical Business Register designed and later tested after operationalization under component 4B

Component 2B: Tourism Satellite Accounts

Tourism Satellite Accounts compilation process established in the State Statistical Office

Component 3: Social Statistics

Light Monitoring Reports on Preparation, Conducting and Processing of the Population Census in the Republic of North Macedonia

Transmission of Census Data to EUROSTAT via Census Hub Tool

Component 4A: Re-engineered IT system for statistical production

Re-engineered IT system for statistical production developed as a software

Component 4B: IT System for Statistical Business Register

New Statistical Business Register developed as a software

Component 4C: Technical Specifications for hardware



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Needs Analysis performed and Technical Specifications prepared for Supply of Hardware under another EU Contract

INCEPTION PERIOD AND LAUNCH EVENT

The Project started officially on 18.02.2019. The entire project team was in Skopje for the first two weeks for a kick-off mission. The Inception period was one month until 17.03.2019 and an Inception Report, containing a new Detailed Workplan for the Project was produced.

On 29.03.2019, at the EU InfoCentre in Skopje, Launch event was held to mark the official start of the EU Funded project "Improving the Production and Dissemination of Statistics".

The Launch event was attended by the directors of the NSI Bulgaria and the SSO of the Republic of North Macedonia, representatives of the EU Delegation to the Republic of North Macedonia and the Public Administration of the Republic of North Macedonia and the institutions that constitute the statistical system in the country.



During the presentations and discussions it was emphasized on many occasions the importance and significance of the improvement of the statistical system of the Republic of North Macedonia in accordance to the EU acquis. This importance is not only, because it is a prerequisite to start negotiations on other important chapters of the EU Acquis, but also because it supports better public policy decision-making based on solid evidence.





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FIRST INTERIM PERIOD FEBRUARY 2019 – AUGUST 2019

During the First Interim Period, three out of four project components – 1, 2 and 4 has started. A number of Project Missions was performed as indicated in the Table below:

Dates	Project Component
18.02.2019-01.03.2019	1 National Accounts, 2A Statistical Business Register, 4 ICT
08.04.2019-12.04.2019	4C Technical Specifications
13.05.2019-17.05.2019	2A Statistical Business Register
13.05.2019-17.05.2019	4C Technical Specifications
20.05.2019-23.05.2019	1 National Accounts
03.06.2019-07.06.2019	4A Reengineered IT system
17.06.2019-21.06.2019	2A Statistical Business Register
24.06.2019-05.07.2019	1 National Accounts
26.06.2019-28.06.2019	4B IT - Statistical Business Register
15.07.2019-19.07.2019	4B IT - Statistical Business Register
16.07.2019	4C Technical Specifications
05.08.2019-09.08.2019	4A Reengineered IT system

In addition, the First Steering Committee was held on 28 May 2019 at the State Statistical Office in Skopje. The results of the Project in the Inception Period were presented as well as the plans for the first interim period. An overview of the other related projects of the SSO was also made.



As a result of the First Interim Period, a number of analytical fact-finding documents have been produced, describing the current situation in the State Statistical Office (SSO) in the field of the National Accounts, the Statistical Business Register and the IT systems available in the SSO. During the period, technical specifications were developed on a priority basis in order to allow the launch of two tenders for supply for IT equipment for the State Statistical Office. The results of these



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tenders are expected in the next project period. The second interim period of the project will also see the start of the remaining components of the project (2B and 3), as well as further activities in the already started sub-components, related to the development of the new Statistical Business Register, the reengineering of the IT system for statistical production, etc.

PROJECT CONTACTS

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