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IMPROVING THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

PROJECT

(IPDS)

EUROPEAID/139628/DH/SER/MK

2019/404709



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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. This is the second issue, covering the period September 2019 - March 2020.

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



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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

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



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SECOND INTERIM PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2019 - MARCH 2020

Two major events marked the second interim period of the project: the start of the work under the Component 2B Tourism Satellite Accounts and the successful tendering of the IT supplies, as a result of the Tender documentation developed under Component 4C.

The Component 2B Tourism Satellite Accounts commenced in late October 2019 and has been making an excellent progress due to the good cooperation achieved with the Beneficiary. Pilot Tourism Satellite Accounts statistics tables and a draft Tourism Satellite Accounts Procedures Manual have been developed as planned as project deliverables.

The tendering of the IT supply (subject to another contract) have been successfully completed in late 2019 and the delivery of the much-needed IT equipment started in the beginning of 2020. Thus Component 4C as development of tender documentation has been successfully completed.

Steady progress have been also achieved under the other components, where work continued from the first period – namely Component 1 National Accounts, Component 2A Statistical Business Register and Component 4A Re-engineered IT system for statistical production.

As a result of the political developments in the country, Component 3 Social Statistics, envisaged as support to the upcoming Census, has been postponed to 2021 in order to coincide with the new planned date for the Census.

At the end of the period and especially in March 2020, the COVID-19 epidemics outbreak affected the implementation of the project, as the borders were closed, public gatherings and travels banned, etc. A Plan for Distance Work in the next months was developed in close consultation with the Beneficiary and has been approved by the Contracting Authority of the project.

Overview table of the Status of the IPDS Project Components

Component/Sub-Component	Status
Component 1 National Accounts	Ongoing
Component 2A Statistical Business Register	Ongoing
Component 2B Tourism Satellite Accounts	Ongoing
Component 3 Social Statistics	Not Started
Component 4A Reengineered IT system	Ongoing
Component 4B IT System for SBR	Initiated
Component 4C Technical specifications	Completed



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Study Visit to the National Statistical Institute in Bulgaria in March 2020

The study visit on Component 2A “Statistical Business Register” (SBR) was organized in Bulgarian National Statistical Institute in Sofia from 09 until 12 March 2020 for a group of 6 persons from the State Statistical Office of North Macedonia. From the project team the Team Leader/Key Expert 2 and a Senior Non-Key Expert on the SBR participated.

The main subject of the study visit was to present the Bulgarian experience in the field of SBR, the way the SBR was developed in Bulgaria, as well as the information systems, used for loading and updating the SBR.

The foreseen topics in the Agenda were coordinated with the participants and prepared in the form of presentations and practical examples. In order to be achieved more accurate and detailed presentation of the information systems, direct access to them was provided in real time.



The study visit started with background information of the Bulgarian SBR, through which the history of SBR was presented - the year of construction, sources, organization, as well as the goals of its construction and specific features.

The introduction of SBR functionalities continued with detailed descriptions. Examples were presented with real data demonstrating the respective functionalities.

Bilateral data exchange activities for multinational enterprise groups between the SBR and the EuroGroup register were presented in detail. The focus was on possible incorrect actions in identifying foreign legal entities that would alter the structures and data of the enterprise groups.

During the last part of the study visit along with the wrap-up of the meeting was discussed some problems linked to the developing of the logical design of the SBR in North Macedonia.



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