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## STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

STATISTICAL DATA AVAILABLE ONLINE –  
MORE DATA AND MORE USERS

### CLASSIFICATIONS AND REGISTERS

2.1. CLASSIFICATIONS

2.2. STATISTICAL REGISTERS

2.2.1. STATISTICAL REGISTER OF  
TERRITORIAL UNITS

2.2.2. STATISTICAL BUSINESS  
REGISTER

2.2.3. STATISTICAL FARM  
REGISTER

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS  
WHERE SSO IS INCLUDED

ONGOING PROJECTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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# REPORT

## ON THE WORK OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN 2012

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The Statistical Council of the Republic of Macedonia  
having considered  
the Report on the work of the State Statistical Office in 2012,  
at its ninth session held on 30 May 2013,  
gave the following

#### OPINION

“The Statistical Council of the Republic of Macedonia accepts and supports the Report on the work of the State Statistical Office in 2012.

At the same time, the Statistical Council considers that the State Statistical Office needs to receive continuous support regarding the human and financial resources that are necessary for execution of the activities planned in the Work Programme, the Strategic Plan and in other strategic documents.”

President of the Statistical Council  
of the Republic of Macedonia  
Prof. Blagoja Markoski, PhD

## **MISSION AND VISION OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

The mission of the State Statistical Office is to produce and disseminate official statistical data on the Macedonian economy and society as a basis for the process of decision making, based on relevant information.

Published statistical data must be accurate, timely, unbiased, accessible and easy to use.

The vision of the State Statistical Office is to be recognised as an institution that provides quality, timely and internationally comparable statistical data

## Foreword

The Annual Report on the work of the State Statistical Office (SSO) represents an overview of the activities and achievements of the institution, as well as the novelties introduced in 2012.

In accordance with the Programme for Statistical Surveys 2008-2012, the State Statistical Office conducted all statistical surveys as planned. In 2012, the State Statistical Office also adopted the Strategic Plan 2013-2015, defining the goals and activities of priority for the institution in the next three-year period.

In 2012, the State Statistical Office prepared the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2013-2017, the purpose of which is to ensure a consistent system of official statistical data, on the basis of firmly prescribed national and international standards, which will be compatible and comparable with international statistical systems. The basic concept of the programme has been designed in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and the principles of official statistics, for applying uniform standards by all authorised bodies for statistical surveys in the Republic of Macedonia and for reducing excessive burden on reporting units.

In December 2012, the State Statistical Office was awarded second place in the category "Best website for governmental/state institutions", as part of the event "Website of the year award 2012". This award is proof that the Office follows the world trends in marketing its own products, and that user satisfaction is the first and foremost condition for the success of the institution.

The process of harmonisation of Macedonian statistics with EU standards continued in 2012. The SSO implemented the recommendations of the Statistical Office of the European

Communities (Eurostat), as well as the recommendations of the European Commission's Light Peer Review of the progress in implementing the Code of Practice.

As part of this process, the State Statistical Office introduced several novelties in its work and established new surveys. For example, in social statistics, the SSO published data on the structure of earnings in the Republic of Macedonia, data on job vacancies, Laeken indicators, data on industrial producer prices on the non-domestic market, thereby increasing the amount of data in the area of economic statistics.

The Report on the work of the State Statistical Office has been prepared with the aim to inform the collaborators in the country and abroad, the users of statistical data, analysts, researchers, reporting units and other stakeholders about the work and the results of the SSO.

We hope that this Report, with its concept and content, meets its objective by giving a complete picture of the operation and activities of the institution aimed at continuous development of the statistical system of the Republic of Macedonia.



Blagica Novkovska, PhD  
Director-General



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## Abbreviations:

SSO	State Statistical Office
EU	European Union
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ESS	European Statistical System
ESMS	European Standard for Reference Metadata Exchange
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
IT	Information technology
MS ISA	Microsoft Security and Acceleration Server
eDamis	Electronic Data files Administration and Management Information System
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
eWA	eDAMIS Web Application
eWP	eDAMIS Web Portal
F	eDAMIS Web Forms
NKD Rev.2	National Classification of Activities Rev. 2
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (eXchange)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
FISIM	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured
SILC	Survey on Income and Living Conditions
RD	Regional Departments
NIP	Nomenclature of Industrial Products
CPA	Classification of Products by Activity
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
NBRM	National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia
NPAA	National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis
NRME	National Reference Metadata Editor
SMIS+	Statistical Management Information System
SBPM	Statistical Business Process Model
FADN	Farm Accountancy Data Network
SEC	State Election Commission
LFS	Labour Force Survey
HBS	Household Budget Survey
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
CATI	Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing

## Strategic goals of the State Statistical Office

In 2012, the State Statistical Office adopted the Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2015, paying attention to the fulfilment of five priorities:

### 1. Harmonisation of statistics in accordance with the EU standards

The top objectives are: further harmonisation of statistical surveys with EU methodologies; increasing the volume of integrated statistical data relevant for measuring the economy and the social phenomena; implementation of ESA 2010 and SNA 2008 methodologies in the statistical system; implementation of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, including the recommendations of Eurostat's Light Peer Review; data transmission to Eurostat through the single data entry point by using tools and formats prescribed by Eurostat; establishing and maintaining a centralised metadata warehouse.

### 2. Strengthening the coordination of the National Statistical System

The top objectives are: further strengthening the role of the State Statistical Office as coordinator of the National Statistical System; giving opinion to authorised bodies on the methodological bases for collecting data in statistical surveys for which they are authorised in accordance with the Programme; giving opinion when introducing new and improving existing data sets; coordinating the application of uniform statistical classifications and nomenclatures for the purposes of statistical production; preparing an annual report on realised obligations from the Programme of Statistical Surveys for all authorised bodies; providing support in strengthening the capacity of authorised bodies in the National Statistical System through trainings in certain

areas of common interest; signing memoranda and protocols of cooperation, participation in joint projects and more efficient distribution of competences with other authorised bodies in the National Statistical System; cooperating with other responsible institutions in fulfilling the obligations related to the Special Data Dissemination Standard of the International Monetary Fund, as well as in meeting other obligations to international institutions.

### 3. Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and holders of administrative data sets

The top objectives are: raising awareness of the significance of official statistics; inclusion of the State Statistical Office in the process of creating and updating the data sets; reducing respondent burden; signing agreements for cooperation and data exchange with holders of data sets.

### 4. Strengthening the cooperation and communication with users, continuous measurement of user needs and satisfaction, and strengthening the confidence in statistics

The top objectives are: ensuring easy user access to official statistical data; increasing the amount of published data and providing data with longer time series; reducing the time period from data collection to data publication; implementation of the policy for access to anonymised microdata for scientific and research purposes; conducting a User Satisfaction Survey.

### 5. Strengthening the institutional capacity of the State Statistical Office

The top objectives are: sustainability and improvement of the capacities of human and technical resources; strengthening the capacities for management of business processes; strengthening the capacities for EU negotiations; rational utilisation of available financial resources, including the pre-accession funds.

For achieving the planned priorities and objectives of the Strategic Plan, several programmes were defined: Sector Statistics; Improvement of Statistical Infrastructure; Strengthening the Cooperation and Communication with Users; and Strengthening the Coordination of the National Statistical System. The implementation of all programmes requires the engagement of adequate human and financial resources, and the timetable for their implementation is defined in the Programme Implementation Plan, which is part of the Strategy.



## Role of the State Statistical Office

The State Statistical Office is a professional, independent organisation whose competencies and scope of work are regulated by the Law on Organisation and Operation of the State Administration Bodies ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 58/00, 44/02 and 82/08) and the Law on State Statistics ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 54/97, 21/07 and 51/11).

In accordance with the Law on State Statistics, the State Statistical Office, on a scientific basis, provides the state administration bodies, local self-government, business entities, public enterprises, public service companies and other users with information on the conditions and trends of the national economy, human resources, demography, protection of the environment and other areas.

The State Statistical Office is responsible for producing official statistics in the Republic of Macedonia and, at the same time, is coordinator of the statistical system in the Republic of Macedonia.

### Following its role, the SSO:

- determines users' needs through regular meetings, and updates the surveys accordingly,
- sets out priorities in a time frame by constantly making efforts to give back timely statistical information to users,
- organises the staff in order to respond to new challenges and user needs.

The State Statistical Office pays special attention to statistical data confidentiality. The data gathered from the reporting units are confidential data, used for statistical purposes only and published as summary (aggregated) data.

The State Statistical Office, as coordinator of the statistical system, by cooperating with the participants in the system ensures:

- data collection with different approaches for obtaining comparable statistical information by using unified statistical infrastructure – classifications, nomenclatures and indicators;
- eliminating duplication in data collection, thus decreasing the burden on data providers;
- increasing the confidence in the SSO by applying standards and unified approaches in the dissemination of statistical data.

The SSO develops its activities by upholding the main principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (neutrality, objectivity, professional independence, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost-effectiveness).

The State Statistical Office develops, produces and disseminates statistics in accordance with the following quality criteria: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, punctuality, accessibility and clarity, coherence and comparability (at national and international level).

The State Statistical Office is coordinator of the international statistical cooperation. In that regard, the Office makes significant efforts for harmonising the national statistical system with the statistical systems of EU countries, for the purpose of meeting the needs of both domestic and international users by providing comparable statistical data.

## 1. STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

*For achieving high quality results of official statistics, the existence of appropriate infrastructure is of great importance*

### 1.1. Administrative capacities

Ensuring coherent statistical implementation of EU standards in various sectors and the existence of a sound statistical infrastructure are of great importance.

In this sense, the State Statistical Office defined its values and goals in the Strategic Plan 2013-2015, which was adopted by the Executive Board of the SSO

on 14 November 2012 and supported by the Statistical Council. This is a basic document containing the main activities to be performed in the upcoming period in order to achieve harmonisation of national statistics with EU legislation.

The State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, as coordinator, the National Bank and the Ministry of Finance extended the successful cooperation and in 2012 continued to provide data for updating the National Summary Data Page within the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund. With this standard, the Republic of Macedonia applies the basic principles for publishing economic and financial statistics, which enables access to international capital markets.

The State Statistical Office coordinated the preparation of the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2013 - 2017, whose purpose is to regulate the system of producing and disseminating statistical information on the status and trends of the economy, social life, environmental protection and other areas, which will contribute to the process of making quality decisions in the area of economic, social and other activities of the Government, ministries and other state institutions, as well as public and private sector managers. The Programme will also provide support for scientific research as a central segment of development, it will provide data that are comparable with other countries in the region and with member countries of the European Union, data that are necessary for planning the regional development of the Republic of Macedonia, etc. For preparing the Programme, a number of consultation meetings were held with representatives from the business community and representatives of the authorised bodies for statistical surveys, including: National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia, Customs Administration, Ministry of Economy, Energy Agency, Central Register, Railway Regulatory Agency, Macedonian Railways – Transport, Public Enterprise - Macedonian Railways, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, etc.

### 1.1.1. Human Resources

In accordance with the established legal competence and the Regulation on internal organisation of State Administration Bodies ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 93/00 and 14/02) and the Rulebook on internal organisation of the State Statistical Office, the SSO performs its responsibilities in seven sectors and 36 departments.

The number of employees at the State Statistical Office, as at 31 December 2012, was 297 persons. The central Office employs 204 people, while the regional departments 93 people. During 2012, 39 new persons were employed at the Office, of which 34 were transferred from other institutions in accordance with Article 17-H of the Law on Civil Servants ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 59/2000, 112/2000, 34/2001, 103/2001, 43/2002, 98/2002,

17/2003, 40/2003, 85/2003, 17/2004, 69/2004, 81/2005, 61/2006, 6/2007, 161/2008, 06/2009, 114/2009, 35/2010, 167/2010, 36/2011, 6/2012, 24/2012 and 15/2013).

During 2012, 11 persons left the Office for various reasons, 5 of which due to retirement.

Graph 1.  
Number of employees at the SSO, by location and gender

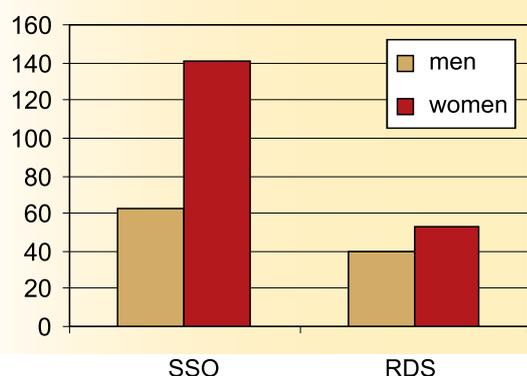
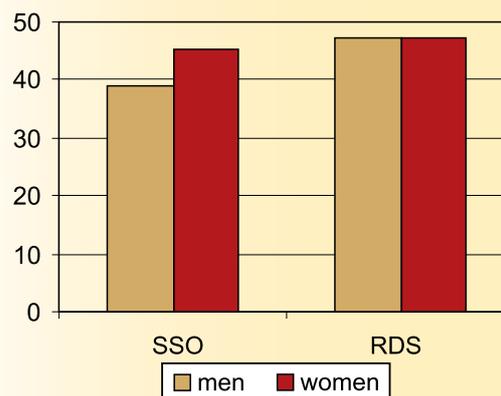


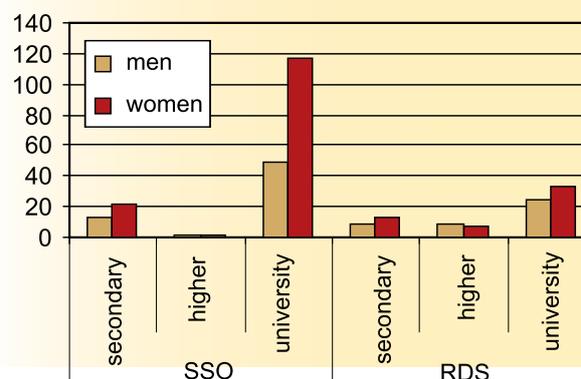
Table 1. SSO employees, by ethnic affiliation

	Total number of employees	% of total number of employees
Macedonians	217	73.1
Albanians	54	18.2
Turks	3	1.0
Roma	1	0.3
Vlachs	4	1.3
Serbs	13	4.4
Bosniaks	3	1.0
Other	2	0.7
Total	297	100.0

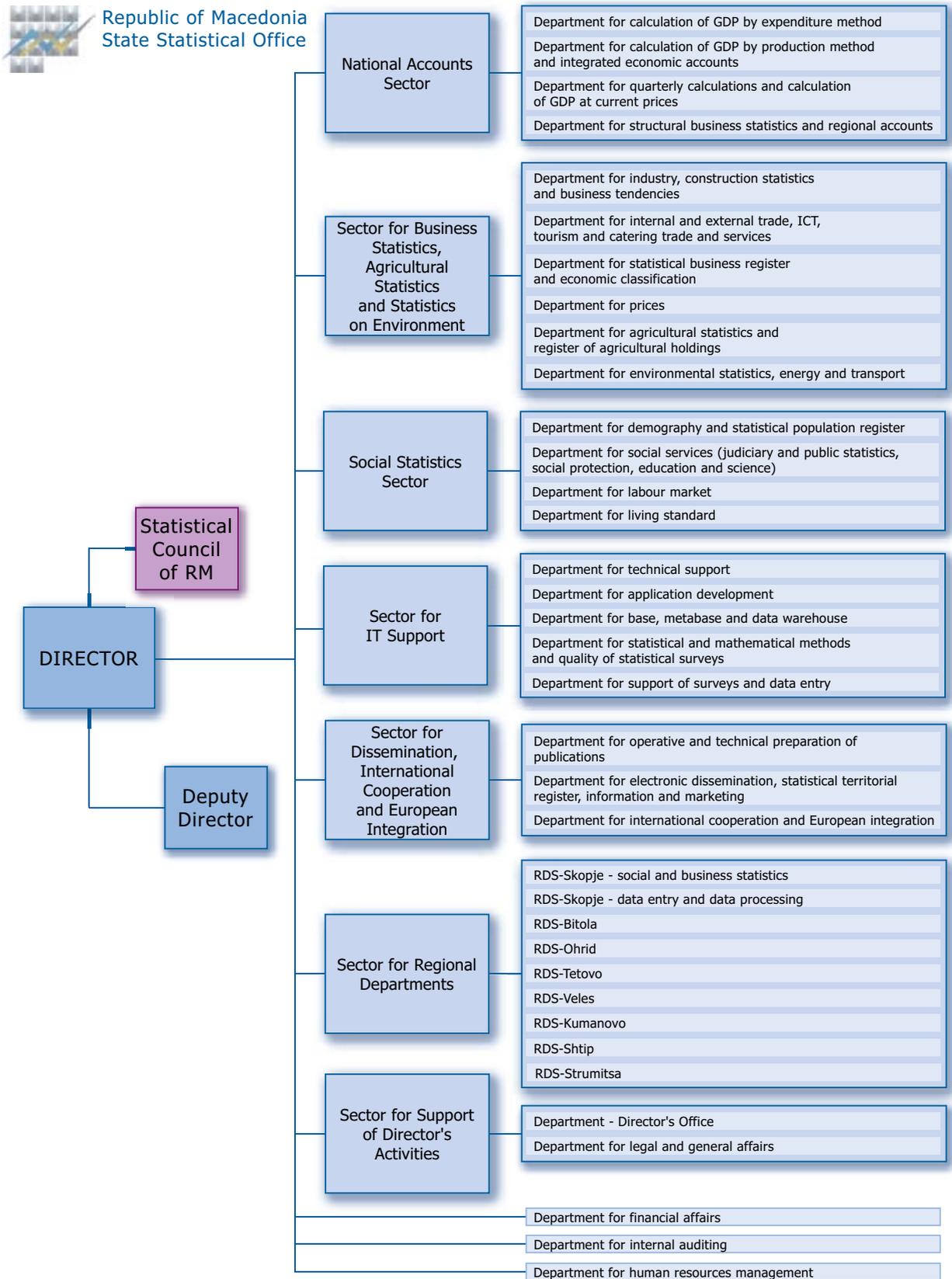
Graph 2.  
SSO employees, by location and age



Graph 3.  
SSO employees, by location and education



1.1.2. Organisational chart of the SSO



### 1.1.3. Professional training of employees

The State Statistical Office pays great attention to the development of human resources by continuous training to develop the abilities and skills of employees. This is closely related to the establishment of a culture of quality, integrity and professionalism. In this regard, the SSO recognised the need for continuous training of its employees in order to meet the increased demand for statistical data in accordance with international standards.

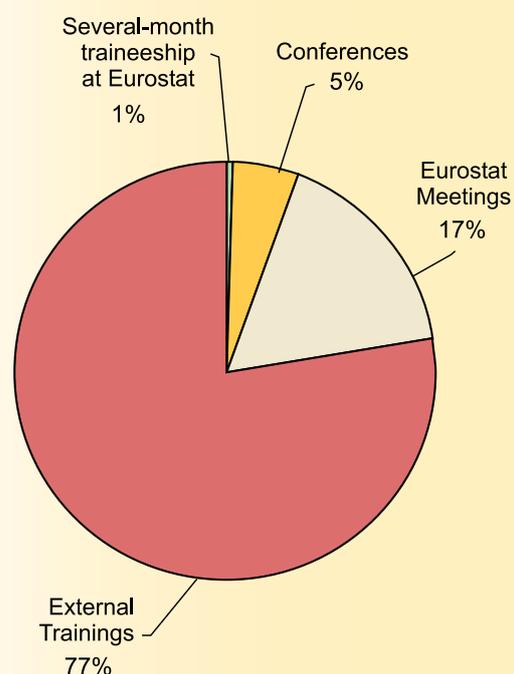
In 2012, 20 persons from the SSO participated in 17 international conferences, and 62 SSO representatives took part in 55 Eurostat meetings. Also, 291 persons from the SSO attended 105 external trainings. Two SSO employees participated in several-month traineeships, one at Eurostat, and the other in the Statistical Office of Poland.

In 2012, the SSO presented itself with 5 papers and 2 presentations at international events.

In accordance with the training plan, the SSO continued with the practice of organising lectures given by the employees themselves. During 2012, a total of 46 internal trainings were held, which were attended by a total of 811 persons, or 18 persons per training on average. Of these, 41 were generic and 5 were specialised trainings. The topics of the trainings were: National Reference Metadata Editor (NRME); Eurostat internship experience; role and importance of internal audit; Ms Access; PX Edit; non-sampling errors; using statistical data for short-term economic analysis, Business Register - basis for statistical surveys; integration of data for National Accounts; Time Use Survey; construction statistics; gross domestic product by production method; Household Budget Survey; natural population change; industry statistics; statistical survey on migration; presentation on agricultural statistics; supply and use tables; sustainable development indicators with a focus on Europe 2020; structure of earnings; labour force survey; integrating data from multiple sources to achieve exhaustiveness in the calculation of GDP-SNA 2008; Statistical Business Process Model; protection from statistical disclosure, registration of statistical variables; imputation.

Graph 4.

Event participation of SSO staff, by type of event



### 1.1.4. Executive Board of the SSO

The Executive Board of the SSO is an expert and advisory body to the Director of the State Statistical Office. Members of the Board are the Director of the SSO, the Deputy Director and the heads of sectors. In performing its functions in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Executive Board adopts working conclusions, opinions, recommendations, etc.

The Board considers and gives opinions on:

- Draft Programme for Statistical Surveys – five-year, and annual proposals for amendments to the Programme;
- Annual Work Programme of the Office;
- Draft estimate of funds required for the following year and Annual Financial Report for the previous year;
- Strategic Plan of the Office and other strategic documents;
- Grants, international projects and programmes;
- Policies, procedures and issues related to the work of the Office;

- Annual Report of the Office;
- Instruments for statistical surveys to be adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia (classifications, nomenclatures, regulations, etc.);
- International statistical cooperation of the Office;
- Other issues of interest for the work of the Office, raised by a member of the Board.

In 2012, the Executive Board held 21 sessions in total, during which several materials were reviewed in the area of official statistics.

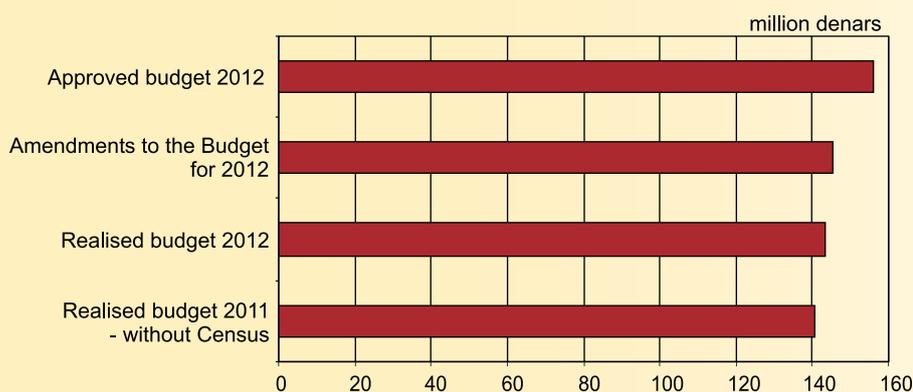
#### 1.1.5. Budget of the State Statistical Office

The total budget of the SSO in 2012 was 155.922.000 denars. With the amendments to the Budget of the

Republic of Macedonia for 2012 (Official Gazette No. 71/2012), the total budget of the SSO was reduced to 145.238.000 denars. The budget of the SSO for performing regular activities in 2012, in comparison with the previous year, was reduced by 0.1% (excluding funds approved for census activities for 2011). The largest portion of SSO's budget (58.85%) was allocated to the Programme of Statistical Surveys.

In the 2012 Budget of the Republic of Macedonia, no funds were approved for the Programme 40 – Election Activities, nor the required funds for national co-financing of the institutional pre-accession assistance – IPA 2009 and IPA 2011 Multi-Beneficiary Programmes and IPA National Programme.

Graph 5. Budget funds for regular activities of the SSO in 2012, compared to 2011



#### 1.1.6. Internal audit

In the SSO, internal audit is conducted as an independent activity of objective assurance and consulting in order to determine whether adequate policies and procedures are applied, whether the regulations and the established standards are implemented, whether the resources are used in an efficient and economic manner, and whether the planned objectives are achieved effectively.

The internal audit provides the Director with additional assurance that the implementation of the management and control instruments is adequate, economic and consistent with the generally accepted standards and the national legislation. It also provides the Director with

analyses, recommendations, advice and information concerning the reviewed activities, in order to contribute to the improvement of SSO's work.

In the course of 2012, internal auditors performed 7 audits for which they prepared auditor's reports, based on the strategic plans, the internal audit annual plan and the plans for individual audits, in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

In 2012, an Annual Report was prepared on the performed audits and activities of the internal audit for 2011.

### *1.1.7. Statistical Council of the Republic of Macedonia*

The Statistical Council of the Republic of Macedonia, as an expert advisory body for state statistics, was established by Decision No. 07-2155/1 of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia of 30 April 2012. The position and the responsibilities of the Statistical Council are defined in articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Law on State Statistics.

During 2012, the Council held 5 sessions in total. In accordance with its responsibilities defined in the Law on State Statistics, the Council reviewed several materials in the field of state statistics, as follows: Draft Law on Amending the Law on State Statistics, Draft Report on the work of the State Statistical Office for 2011, Data Revision Policy, User Satisfaction Survey Report, amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Macedonia, SSO Strategic Plan 2013-2015, Report of the European Commission on the progress of the Republic of Macedonia with special reference to the progress in the field of statistics, Draft Five-Year Programme of Statistical Surveys (2013-2017), Report on the implementation of the activities recommended by the Light Peer Review, Promotion of agricultural statistics after the implementation of the 2007 Census of Agriculture, and other materials.

## **1.2. Support of statistical outputs, technical infrastructure**

### *1.2.1. Quality management*

Quality monitoring in the SSO is based on the quality standards established in the European Statistical System (ESS) and expressed in the Quality Declaration of the ESS and the European Statistics Code of Practice. In 2012, the SSO prepared an analysis of the biennial self-assessment with the CAF tool conducted in 2011, and completed the third self-assessment. The results were presented at the promotional activity organised by the Ministry of Information Society and Administration on the occasion of the official adoption of this tool for

self-assessment of the public administration institutions in the Republic of Macedonia.

The use of the CAF self-assessment model provided the State Statistical Office with a powerful framework for initiating the process of continuous development by allowing employees to learn more about themselves and the areas where further development is necessary and possible.

As regards measuring the quality of statistical products, the preparation of quality reports upon completion of statistical surveys is becoming a regular practice in the SSO for the surveys for which Eurostat has customised templates.

### *1.2.2. Metadata*

The implementation of the adopted statistical business process model (SBPM) of the SSO began with the preparation of the Work Programme for 2012. They represent only a part of the complete list of activities harmonised with SBPM which was prepared for implementation in the system of daily registration of activities, starting from 1 January 2013.

### *1.2.3. Reducing the burden on reporting units*

The SSO is dedicated to the strategic goal of reducing the burden on reporting units by examining the possibilities for using administrative data sources for statistical purposes in several areas. Cooperation agreements and memoranda have been signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy and the Agency for Electronic Communications. The agreement signed with the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia transferred the responsibility for compiling the financial account to the National Bank.

### *1.2.4. Cost Calculation System*

One of the priorities integrated into the SSO Strategy and in NPAA is determining the costs of individual statistics, total and by phases. As part of the quality monitoring system, the SSO has established a Cost Calculation System, with the following three modules:

- for recording printing costs,
- for recording photocopying costs
- for recording daily activities.

The system for daily registration of time spent per activity, as part of the Cost Calculation System, is operational since 2009.

Bearing in mind the fact that in 2012 the costs for employees' salaries accounted for 82% of the budget of the SSO and that salaries are the biggest expense in any statistical survey, it is particularly important to monitor the usage of the working time. This system provides an insight into the share of salaries in the cost of each individual survey.

The ratio between the direct time (spent on a particular survey) and indirect time (spent on activities auxiliary to the surveys) is 65.74% to 34.26%, which is close to European standards.

Regarding the cost units, according to records, the most working days have been spent on:

- Monthly statistical survey on employees and wages, 2267 hours
- Labour Force Survey, 2245 hours

The distribution of time spent in different stages of statistical production, according to the adopted business process model, is as follows:

### 1.2.5. Data security and statistical confidentiality

Data security and statistical confidentiality in the SSO are ensured via technical means, implementation of new technologies, supported by adequate management and procedures and rulebooks.

Regarding statistical confidentiality, the SSO approved 3 requests for access to microdata on the basis of the adopted documents for access to microdata for scientific and research purposes and the established "secure room".

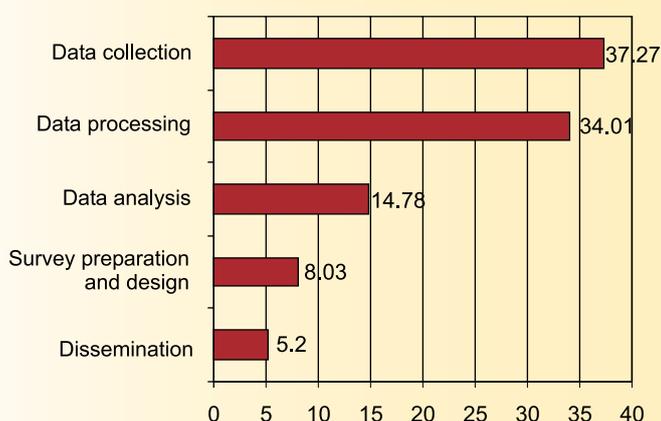
### 1.2.6. Using the collaborative infrastructure of Eurostat – data transmission through the "Single Entry Point"

The State Statistical Office regularly fulfils its obligation to transmit statistical data to Eurostat, in as greater scope as possible through the defined "Single Entry Point" and by using the available support tools offered by the eDamis system (eWA, eWP, eWF).

Regarding the data transmission from the SSO, in the period January-December 2012, there were 440 data transmissions with 305 data sets transmitted.

By accepting and using the tools provided by Eurostat for data transmission through eDamis, the SDMX data transmission format is automatically accepted, and in accordance with the adopted ESMS (Euro SDMX) structure relevant metadata are continuously collected

Graph 6  
Percentage of registered time by individual stages of the business process model



at the SSO. As the ESMS database has existed for two years at the SSO, employees are familiar with the ESMS structure (concepts and indicators of quality) and with the National Reference Metadata Editor, as a tool for reference metadata transmission to Eurostat.

It is also important to say that for the needs of data transmission to Eurostat, variables are regularly re-coded (transcoded) in accordance with the codes of the relevant Eurostat regulations.

### *1.2.7. IT infrastructure*

In order to improve the information infrastructure, the following activities were carried out:

- Enhancing the capacity of the computer network with the regional departments and creating a data link through the established virtual private network. The regional departments for statistics were also provided with Internet access;
- Within IPA 2009, technical specification and tender documents were prepared for procurement of a system for centralised backup and archiving of data;
- Within the IPA 2009 National Programme, an agreement was signed with an external IT company for development of an IT system for automatic metadata generation based on web forms for data collection over the Internet. The basis for signing the agreement was the technical specification with very detailed functional requirements that was completely independently prepared by the SSO, as a result of the multi-annual analysis of ESS good practices.

In relation to application development, the SSO completely relies on its own resources when developing IT systems for support of individual surveys, using widely spread commercial software (Microsoft) as a development tool, as well as specialised software for statistical needs, such as Blaise and SAS. The tendency

for processing applications in SAS and Blaise, which increases work efficiency, continued in 2012.

Another significant activity in 2012 was the completely new software for designing the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2013-2017, and the substantial improvements in the application for preparation of the 2013 Annual Work Programme which is now harmonised with SBPM.

## **1.3. Dissemination**

### *1.3.1. Data dissemination*

The main objective of dissemination is to provide dissemination products and services that meet users' needs for official statistics.

The Internet is the main channel for dissemination of statistical data and information. In 2012, great efforts were made by the SSO for preparing new data tables, as well as for updating the existing data tables with longer time series in the MAKStat database.

### *1.3.2. Statistical data available online*

#### *– more data and more users*

The website of the State Statistical Office is becoming the basic source of official statistics. Through the website, users have access to the publications issued by the institution, as well as to the database that contains data from several thematic areas and data by regions. The website of the SSO in 2012 was visited 1023497 times. From January 2012 to December 2012, the tables in the database were visited 38441 times in total, an increase of 16.39% compared to 2011.

The new web page of the State Statistical Office, which became operational in 2011, has been designed according to user needs and in accordance with

European standards. The database is constantly enriched with new data tables and time series. The amount of data organised in excel spreadsheets is steadily growing, and a separate application has been developed through which users can search for the number of occurrences of names and surnames in the Republic of Macedonia, by sex and by region. Information about the statistical products and activities of the SSO are regularly published on Twitter. In 2012, the SSO began using Google Analytics to monitor traffic on its website.

In 2012, the website of the State Statistical Office won the second prize in the category for best website of the year for government / state institutions.

In 2012, the User Satisfaction Survey was carried out for the third time.

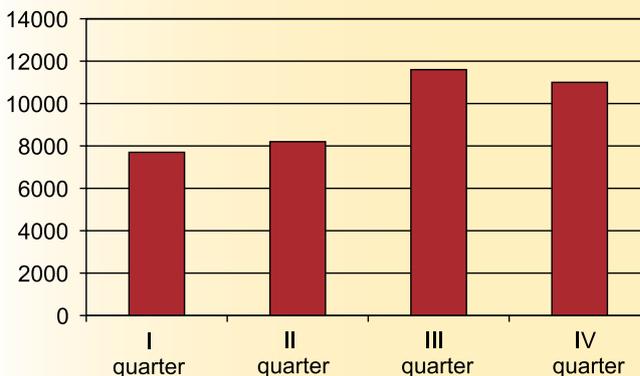
### 1.3.3. Publication activity of the institution

The results from the statistical surveys are available to both domestic and international users in the form of statistical publications.

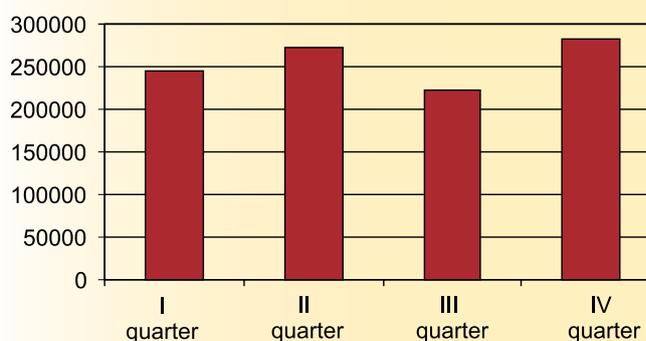
Dissemination statistics show that the following results were achieved in 2012:

- 310 issues have been published in the "News Releases" edition,
- 27 issues have been published in the "Statistical Reviews" edition,
- 5 other publications have been published,
- 12 issues of the Monthly Statistical Bulletin have been published, separately in Macedonian and English language,
- 12 issues of short-term indicators have been published,
- there have been 452 data requests both from domestic and international users.

Graph 7  
Visits to the web database of the SSO, 2012



Graph 8  
Number of visitors to the website of the SSO, 2012



The following were published in 2012:

#### **"Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Macedonia"**

– a publication containing statistical data on the demographic, social and economic situation in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as data for a longer period of time. A separate chapter contains data comparable with other countries in Europe and the world.

#### **"Macedonia in Figures"**

– a small statistical yearbook, containing tables and charts with data about the Republic of Macedonia from all the areas covered by the surveys conducted by the State Statistical Office. The concept of presenting comparative data about the Republic of Macedonia and the EU member states and candidate countries has been retained in this edition as well.

**"Sustainable Development"** – publication by which the SSO succeeded in the efforts to calculate and unite in one place the available indicators of sustainable development in the Republic of Macedonia. The indicators have a multi-domain character and reflect the economic, social, environmental and the institutional dimension of sustainable development.

**"Regions of the Republic of Macedonia"** is the third edition of the State Statistical Office which contains the latest economic and socio-demographic data about the regions in the country. Statistical data about the regions contribute to the fulfilment of the obligations of the Republic of Macedonia in the frame of the regional policy of the European Union within the regional policy of the European Union. Through clear and simple tables, maps and charts, this publication presents the statistical regions in several statistical areas, while the short comments contribute to the easy identification of the characteristics, differences and similarities between the regions.

**"Women and men in the Republic of Macedonia"** – sixth edition of the publication, containing gender indicators that are used for monitoring the process of providing equal opportunities and equal treatment of women and men in various areas of life: education, employment, judiciary, culture, social protection, etc.

All publications are available on the website of the State Statistical Office: [www.stat.gov.mk](http://www.stat.gov.mk)

#### 1.3.4. Preparation of data according to user needs – simple delivery of data to users

During 2012, the number of written requests for data produced by the SSO dropped by 27% due to the increased volume of data published on the website of the SSO. Additionally, in 2012, the SSO responded to 450 requests for statistical data via e-mail, and to around 700 data requests via telephone. Last year, international statistical and other organisations submitted 214 requests for data, of which 15% were by the statistical office of Eurostat, excluding regular transmission of data to Eurostat.

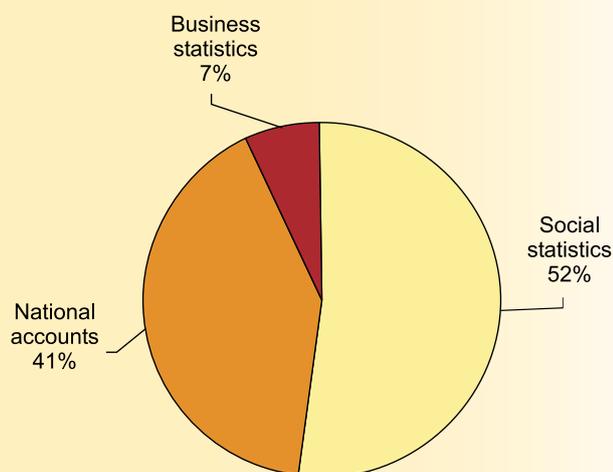
The library of the Office was visited by 54 users, who used SSO's publications and other library materials. Processing of library material continued in 2012, when 126 titles were processed in the COBISS tool.

#### 1.3.5. Greater representation of statistical data in the media

Media are a very important part of users of official statistical data, because through the media statistical data are available to the general public. The edition "News Releases" is the most often used medium by the journalists. The State Statistical Office keeps track only of its coverage in print media, and according to the available data, 656 articles were published in 2012, of which around 65% referring to the interpretation of statistical data in the area of industry, population, incomes, expenditures and prices.

In 2012, the SSO intensified its activities in the field of public relations. Cooperation with the media - one of the main channels for dissemination of statistical data - was enhanced through intensive communication of the person responsible for public relations with the media, which significantly increased the interest in statistical products. In addition to giving regular and timely answers to journalists' questions via e-mail, a number of interviews were made with SSO experts for domestic

Graph 9  
Publications issued, 2012



print and electronic media, as well as foreign media that were interested in certain phenomena monitored by statistics in Macedonia.

As part of the annual plan for public relations in 2012, the cooperation between the SSO and the Economic Chamber of Macedonia was intensified through presentation of the website of the SSO and the opportunities it offers for member of the Chamber, and through regular monthly publication of SSO papers in the monthly bulletin of the Economic Chamber of Macedonia – Newsletter.

## **2. CLASSIFICATIONS AND REGISTERS**

### **2.1 Classifications**

The State Statistical Office regularly monitors the changes in European and international classifications and accordingly adjusts the national classifications of the Republic of Macedonia, such as the: National Classification of Occupations - NKD, International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED, National Classification of Activities - NKD, Classification of Products by Activity - CPA, National Nomenclature of Industrial Products - NNIP, Customs Nomenclature, etc.

### **2.2. Statistical registers**

The State Statistical Office continuously works on improving the quality and content of the statistical registers it maintains.

#### *2.2.1. Statistical Register of Territorial Units*

The Statistical Register of Territorial Units is constantly updated in accordance with changes, and it is used in the processing of data from statistical surveys conducted by the SSO.

#### *2.2.2. Statistical Business Register*

The Statistical Business Register is regularly updated by using automated procedures for monthly and annual updating. A database with groups of enterprises has been created and enterprise groups have been defined for 2010. An analysis is made of legal units of the enterprise groups for 2010 in order to determine the method of updating the groups.

During 2012, with the support of TAIEX, an expert mission was carried out concerning the methods and procedures for profiling businesses in the Business Register.

#### *2.2.3. Statistical Farm Register*

The procedures for updating the Statistical Farm Register are continuously developed. Besides the statistical surveys, data on cattle obtained from administrative sources are also used for updating the Register.

## **3. SECTOR STATISTICS**

### **3.1. Social statistics**

*Social statistics in 2012 were characterised by the first publication of data on the structure of earnings and the introduction of a new labour market survey – Job Vacancy Survey, and the publication of Laeken indicators based on the Survey on Income and Living Conditions.*

During 2012, the Sector of Social Statistics carried out all planned statistical surveys in the area of labour market, standard of living, social services and demography.

In January 2012, in accordance with legal obligations, the State Statistical Office prepared a report on the costs incurred in connection with the implementation of

the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia, 2011. The report was adopted by the Government in February 2012.

In the first quarter of 2012, the SSO began conducting the regular job vacancy survey, and established cooperation with the Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia for regular transmission of administrative data on job vacancies.

In May 2012, data were published from two new surveys carried out by the SSO: Structure of Earnings Survey and Job Vacancy Survey, which was introduced for the first time in the first quarter of 2012.

In the questionnaire for the Job Vacancy Survey a question has been added regarding the occupation required for the job vacancies. The news release for the second quarter of 2012 also contained data on job vacancies by occupation according to the National Classification of Occupations 2011.

Microdata from the Structure of Earnings Survey have been transmitted to Eurostat. The data have been evaluated and corrected accordingly, and the final data have been transmitted to Eurostat.

Regarding the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), which is a source of data on the distribution of income and for calculation of Laeken indicators of poverty, social exclusion, pensions and material deprivation, during 2012 for the first time, Laeken indicators were published for 2010, as internationally comparable indicators.

In May 2012, a School-to-Work Transition Pilot Survey was carried out for persons aged 15 to 29 years, and in the third quarter of 2012 the complete School-to-Work Transition Survey was carried out as part of the regular Labour Force Survey. Within the Labour Force Survey, the computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) has been expanded and improved.

During June 2012, an expert mission on ESSPROS was carried out within the IPA 2009 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme. A workshop and several meetings were held with members of the

Working Group and other employees in the institutions responsible for submitting data according to ESSPROS schemes the prepared schemes have been checked, answers to the questions have been received, the need for additional schemes has been determined, and directions have been received for further steps for implementation of the ESSPROS methodology.

Activities have started within the IPA Twinning Project with the German Statistical Office, under which certain activities have been planned aimed at improving statistics in the field of crime, culture and production of Laeken indicators and the Survey of Income and Living Conditions quality report.

The SSO began with implementation of the IPA 2011 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme, which includes activities for improving the Household Budget Survey, Survey on Income and Living Conditions (organisational and field activities) and the Labour Force Survey.

For preparing the Five-Year Programme of Statistical Surveys 2013-2017, in the second half of 2012, several meetings were held in the Sector of Social Statistics with representatives of institutions producing data in the social field that are related to the social statistics produced by the State Statistical Office.

### ***Methodological improvements in statistical surveys***

- A methodology has been prepared for conducting the regular Job Vacancy Survey. A methodology has been prepared for conducting the School-to-Work Transition Survey aimed at the population aged 15 to 29 years, people who are still in school, employed or self-employed, who are unemployed or outside the labour force for reasons not related to regular education.
- Improvements have been made in the application for carrying out the computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI).

## **Novelties**

- For the first time, data were published on the structure of earnings in the Republic of Macedonia, on job vacancies, and Laeken indicators. Contacts have been established with holders of administrative data sets in order to determine the possibility of providing administrative data that can be used in statistical surveys.
- Regular transmission of statistical data on population and labour market has been established according to the SDDS standard of the International Monetary Fund.

### **3.2. National accounts**

*National accounts in 2012 were characterised by the preparation of sector accounts and improvement of the main aggregates of national accounts.*

All planned activities for 2012 related to the Purchasing Power Parity were performed as scheduled.

Within the IPA 2009 Multi-Beneficiary Programme, experimental calculations have been made of GDP at constant prices, by using supply and use tables.

Great progress has been made in compiling and integrating sector accounts data, including the balancing process:

- activities related to sectorisation of units have been intensified;
- the knowledge regarding transactions between sectors has been improved through successful cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia;
- particular attention has been given to the compilation of the General Government sector account, as a basis for compiling excessive deficit (EDP) tables in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance.

An understanding has been reached that the National Bank should be responsible for the preparation of financial accounts, for which a data exchange agreement has been prepared, as well as an annexe to the Memorandum of Cooperation.

In April 2012, a technical group composed of representatives from the SSO and the Ministry of Finance participated in an expert mission financed through TAIEX in order to ensure progress in the compilation of the excessive deficit procedure (EDP) notification tables. The available resources from both institutions were used during the mission.

#### ***Methodological improvements in statistical surveys***

- Activities have been intensified for improving structural business statistics, Annexes 1-4 of Commission Regulation (EC) 250/2009.
- Within the IPA 2009 National Programme, activities have continued for improving the GDP calculations and indicators at quarterly and annual level. This Programme covers the activities related to the preparation of sector accounts, the calculation of fixed assets and inventories, calculation of excessive deficit (EDP), supply and use tables, and quarterly accounts with seasonal adjustment. Also, activities have been planned for compiling health accounts and for calculating sustainable development indicators.

## **Novelties**

An agreement has been reached between the SSO and the National Bank in relation to the collection of data by the SSO for compiling the financial accounts by the National Bank at the quarterly level.

Through projects of the IPA 2011 Multi-Beneficiary Programme, activities have been initiated for implementing ESA 2010 for the major methodological changes in relation to ESA 1995, by analysis of existing data and by preparing data in accordance with the methodological changes.

### 3.3. Business statistics, agricultural statistics and environmental statistics

*Continuous efforts are made for improving business statistics and for harmonisation with European regulations, and particular progress has been made in improving short-term statistics.*

#### 3.3.1. Business statistics

In the area of short-term statistics preparations were well underway for changing the base year in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 1165/98.

In 2012, a national report was prepared for the external trade statistics. The quality of data on external trade has been improved by conducting a comparative analysis with the countries participating in the external trade of the Republic of Macedonia.

Data in the area of short-term statistics – Indices of industrial producer prices on the non-domestic market, in accordance with the harmonisation with Regulation 1165/98, have been transmitted to Eurostat.

#### 3.3.2. Agricultural statistics

In the area of agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, during 2012, all statistical surveys were conducted as planned.

The improvement of statistics on agricultural prices is a continuous process and it is one of the major sources of quality data for calculation of the economic accounts for agriculture. Calculations have been made of the indices of agricultural prices at quarterly and annual level. All preparations have been made for changing the base year in the survey on agricultural input / output prices.

#### 3.3.3. Statistics on environment, energy and transport

- Statistics in the field of transport, energy and trade are continuously harmonised with EU regulations.

- In the field of energy statistics, all preparations have been made for publication of monthly data starting from 2013. Also, data are regularly transmitted to Eurostat for calculation of Europe 2020 indicators.

#### **Methodological improvements in statistical surveys**

- New questionnaires have been designed for all surveys in the area of information and communication technologies, in accordance with the methodology and recommendations of Eurostat for 2012.

#### **Novelties**

- Industrial production indices adjusted for working days for 2011 were calculated for the first time, in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics, and they were published in the statistical review on Industry in 2012.
- Data on Economic Accounts for Agriculture by regions for 2009 were calculated and published for the first time.
- Within the IPA 2009 National Programme - Twinning Project, preparation has begun of pilot surveys on: organic production, environmental costs, passenger mobility and import-export prices.

### 3.4. Sector for Regional Departments

The organisational structure of the State Statistical Office comprises the Central Office and eight regional departments throughout the country (Skopje, Tetovo, Kumanovo, Veles, Stip, Bitola, Ohrid and Strumica.)

According to the Annual Programme for Statistical Surveys, 194 statistical surveys were planned in 2012,

for which data were collected in the field with various periodicity (monthly, quarterly, annual and multi-annual). For 99 surveys (51%) data collection was performed in the State Statistical Office, while for 95 (49%) in the regional departments and the State Statistical Office.

Administrative sources were used for collecting data in 35 surveys. Therefore, it can be concluded that reporting units are still the primary source for data collection via statistical surveys conducted in the field.

In the regional departments, for most of the surveys, only data collection, coding and preliminary control are performed (112 surveys), while data entry and technical processing are performed for 6 statistical surveys in the area of demography (with the exception of the regional department in Skopje). Data collection, coding, preliminary control and data entry in the regional departments are performed for 7 statistical surveys.

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

##### **4.1. European integration**

Eurostat monitors the progress of the Republic of Macedonia in the area of statistics and provides assistance in the activities for harmonisation of the national statistical data with the EU and international standards.

The employees of the SSO actively participated in monitoring and updating the NPAA with regard to the objectives and activities foreseen to be achieved in 2012. The SSO, as leader and coordinator of the Working Group 18 – Statistics, continuously organises and coordinates the work of the Working Group for the purpose of regular, quality and timely monitoring and reporting about the progress in adopting the Acquis, with weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual periodicity.

In December 2012, the final version of the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) 2013 was submitted to the Secretariat for European Affairs.

The eighth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs and Statistics was held in May in Skopje, where the European Commission (EC) praised the progress the SSO has made since the previous meeting (2011).

Also, on 7 and 8 May, an annual Eurostat mission was held in the State Statistical Office, during which were presented the future plans and needs for support of the SSO.

The intensive and well-established cooperation between Eurostat and the SSO advances with every further step taken. Besides the participation in Eurostat working group meetings, of great benefit for the SSO in applying European legislation in statistics are also Eurostat's consultations, assessments and recommendations.

In 2012, the State Statistical Office once again submitted and confirmed on time the assessment of the Republic of Macedonia in SMIS+ (Statistical Management Information System), a Eurostat internet software tool for monitoring the harmonisation of candidate countries and potential candidate countries with EU legislation in statistics.

##### **4.2. International projects where the SSO is included**

###### *4.2.1. Ongoing projects of the European Commission:*

###### *- National projects*

##### **IPA 2009 National Programme – Support to the SSO**

- This programme is composed of: twinning contract, procurement contract (still in the process of tendering) and service contract.

The implementation of the twinning project "Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards" started on 18 August 2012 and will end on 17 August 2014. This project covers several components: national accounts, sector statistics, capacity building and electronic data collection.

The implementation of the service contract "Support to the State Statistical Office for software solution for online filling of statistical questionnaires" started on 15 January 2013 and will end on 15 January 2014.

*- Multi-beneficiary projects*

### **IPA 2011 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme**

The IPA 2011 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme officially started on 1 September 2012 and will last until the end of August 2014. The aim of the programme is to ensure further integration of national statistics in the European Statistical System by strengthening the capacity of the Office and its role as coordinator of the national statistical system. Furthermore, the programme aims to support sustainable capacity building of the Office in order to better meet user demands by providing accurate, reliable and timely data that are fully compliant with EU legislation in the field of statistics. Also, the programme will improve the quality of statistical information and will strengthen the confidence in the methods and professionalism, thus providing policy makers and the international community with relevant statistical data.

Within the IPA 2011 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme, the State Statistical Office is included in the following pilot projects:

- National accounts methodology
- Quarterly national accounts
- Regional gross value added
- Annual sector accounts
- Annual Government accounts
- Agri-monetary statistics
- Annual statistics on crop production
- Statistics on livestock production
- Labour force survey
- Statistics on income and living conditions

- Household budget survey
- Business register
- External trade
- Structural business statistics
- Price statistics – PPP
- Farm structure survey

*- Realised projects*

**IPA 2007 - Technical Assistance to the State Statistical Office** covered 4 areas where the following results were achieved:

- Developed a quality system for all processes in the production of statistics, by applying the following principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice: Principle 4 – Commitment to Quality, Principle 5 – Statistical Confidentiality; Principle 7 – Sound Methodology, Principle 8 – Appropriate Statistical Procedures, and Principle 15 – Accessibility and Clarity.
- Further harmonisation of national accounts and other economic statistics, with particular focus on the area of national accounts and implementation of the European System of Accounts (ESA) 1995. Experts did practical work on implementing the ESA 95 methodology, which provided an opportunity to assess the available data in every institution and their influence in compiling the accounts and the quality of calculations.
- Improved business statistics. A series of activities gave an insight into the main principles for preparing quality structural statistics, and data users in the Republic of Macedonia were provided with data on the trends in the economy in accordance with EU regulations.
- Improved social statistics in the following areas: education, culture, crime statistics, research and development. New surveys have been introduced as well, such as the Structure of Earnings Survey.

## IPA 2009 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme

The programme ended on 31 December 2012 and the final report was delivered to Eurostat. The programme included 7 pilot projects: external trade statistics, purchasing power parity, national accounts, energy statistics, harmonised index of consumer prices, agro-monetary statistics, and labour force survey. The planned activities for all seven pilot projects were completed and final reports for each of the pilot projects were delivered to Eurostat. By approval of Eurostat, the duration of the programme was extended by one month, until 31 December 2012, due to problems with financing the IPA 2011 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme.

Within the Pilot Project on External Trade Statistics, the following results were achieved in 2012:

- A mirror analysis was performed with member states, candidate countries and potential candidate countries for EU membership, and a report was produced.
- Improvement and implementation of the Methodology and the Manual for correcting errors.
- A quality report on external trade statistics was prepared.
- A report on the harmonisation of external trade statistics with EU regulations was prepared.
- A national report on external trade statistics was prepared.
- An analysis was made of the quality of data submitted to the COMEXT database.

Within the Pilot Project on Purchasing Power Parity, the following results were achieved in 2012:

- The survey on consumer prices (E10-2 Transport, restaurants and hotels) was conducted.
- The survey on consumer prices for 2011 and 2012 (E11-1 Services, E11-2 Furniture and Health and E12-1 Food, beverages and tobacco and E12-2 Furnishing) was conducted.

- Preparations were made and the survey on equipment prices for 2011 was conducted.
- Preparations were made and the survey on construction prices for 2011 and 2012 was conducted.
- Preparations were made and the survey on real estate prices for 2011 and 2012 was conducted.
- The survey on health prices for 2011 was conducted.
- Data from the survey on consumer prices (E11-1 Services and E11-2 Furniture and Health) were validated.
- Data from the survey on construction prices for 2011 were validated.
- Data from the survey on equipment prices for 2011 were validated.
- Data on other costs were also provided and validated.
- Descriptions of Chapter 1, 2.1 and Chapter 5 of the PPP Manual were prepared and submitted to Eurostat.
- Special training was organised for interviewers who are engaged in the surveys in this pilot project.
- Reports were submitted to Eurostat for all surveys in this pilot-project.
- The publication "International Comparison of GDP for 2008" was prepared.

Within the Pilot Project on National Accounts, the following results were achieved in 2012:

- The existing indicators at constant prices were analysed with the aim to improve the methods for constant price calculations
- Annual and quarterly estimates at constant prices were prepared.
- An analysis was made of the compliance of national accounts with EU regulations and the reliability of annual and quarterly estimates at constant prices.

Within the Pilot Project on Energy Statistics, the following results were achieved in 2012:

- The periodic and the final reports on energy statistics were prepared and submitted to Eurostat. The reports gave a comprehensive presentation of energy statistics, starting from data collection, processing and harmonisation with EU regulations, and a publication “Energy Statistics” was prepared.
- Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 on energy statistics and its amendment have been translated. The Regulation completely covers all areas of energy statistics.

Within the Pilot Project on Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, the following results were achieved in 2012:

- Regular transmission of data on the harmonised index of consumer prices has been established;
- The Practical Guide to Producing Consumer Price Indices has been translated.

Within the Pilot Project on Agro-monetary Statistics, the following results were achieved in 2012:

- Preparation and execution of the Multi-Purpose Farm Survey 2011. This pilot survey was primarily planned for intermediate consumption in agriculture, but due to the need for obtaining additional data it was extended as Multi-Purpose Farm Survey. The survey was conducted on a sample of 300 agricultural holdings.
- A set of data on the economic accounts for agriculture and agricultural prices was transmitted to Eurostat via e-Damis in July 2012.

Within the Pilot Project on Labour Force Survey, the following results were achieved in 2012:

- CATI and CAPI, which were introduced in the fourth quarter of 2011 (with the previous activities for purchasing laptops, licenses, telephone system and preparation of CATI and CAPI applications for data entry) were also implemented in the first quarter of 2012.

- In the second quarter of 2012, a CATI centre was established for regular implementation of the Labour Force Survey.
- A detailed description was prepared of all activities related to this pilot project, including a work plan and allocation of resources, and it was delivered to Eurostat in January 2012.
- The publication Labour Force Survey 2011 was prepared.

#### **The Macedonian-Swedish partnership in statistics**

**2009-2011** ended in January 2012. On this occasion, a workshop titled “Macedonian-Swedish partnership in statistics, 2009-2011” was held in the State Statistical Office on 17 February 2012. The results and experiences from all three phases of the Project were presented at the Workshop. This partnership covered technical assistance in the development of farm structure statistics, Statistical Farm Register, prices of agricultural products and economic accounts for agriculture, statistics on private forests, environment statistics, PC Axis, metadata, and procurement of IT equipment.

#### **4.3. Communication and cooperation with other state institutions**

In the area of social statistics, the cooperation with the Ministry of Interior is of particular importance, and there is also communication and cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, especially in the development of ESSPROS - European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics. The SSO also cooperates with the National Bank, the Republic Institute for Health Protection, the Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia, IMF, World Bank and other domestic and foreign institutions. The cooperation with UNICEF consists of providing statistical data for the TransMonee database, which contains data on the social and economic situation and well-being of children.

In order to use a greater amount of data from administrative sources for statistical purposes, memoranda of cooperation have been signed with the:

- Institute of Public Health for cooperation and exchange of data
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy for the operation of the farm accountancy data network
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy for collection and exchange of data organic production
- Agency for Electronic Communications

Activities have also been carried out to revise the contract with the Public Revenue Office in order to increase the amount data that can be used in several statistical surveys (survey on wages, etc.).

On 13 June 2012, a workshop titled "Importance of agricultural statistics in the Republic of Macedonia, their improvement through the IPA 2009 Multi-Beneficiary Programme, and future challenges related to the development of the Five-Year Programme, 2013-2017" was held at the State Statistical Office. The objective of the Workshop was to introduce data providers and data users to the progress achieved with the Project on Agri-Monetary Statistics and the future challenges for the State Statistical Office in the area of agricultural statistics.

On 12 July 2012, at the Economic Chamber of the Republic of Macedonia, representatives of the SSO held a presentation about the website of the SSO and the opportunities it offers, with special focus on the Makstat database.

#### **4.4. Problems that the SSO was facing**

Some of the problems the SSO was facing in 2011 were also present in 2012.

The SSO has difficulties obtaining reports from the reporting units. As a result, there is a tendency of increased costs for telephone and written reactions. The non-existence of adequate departments for filling in statistical forms and the growing number of accounting bureaus that have unresolved bilateral issues with the companies additionally increase respondents' unwillingness to fill in statistical forms.

Concerning the release from administrative functions, the methodological and technical updating of the Electoral List was supposed to be taken over by the State Election Commission. However, the transfer has not yet been done, but the SSO expects to be released from this administrative function in the near future.

The reduction of the budget for financing the current activities of the SSO hindered the implementation of the Annual Work Programme of the SSO and the implementation of the planned surveys and payments to interviewers. The lack of funds contributed to greater debt of the SSO to business entities that provide services, primarily for electricity and heating bills and other financial obligations for postal services, telephone services, internet, etc. A major problem for the SSO for years is the late provision of funds for payment of license rights to use specialised software for statistical purposes: SAS, Blaise, PC-Axis, as well as the inability to obtain a newer version of MS Office software. The SSO currently uses MS Office 2000, which significantly reduces the efficiency, and which in some cases even makes it impossible to carry out the planned tasks.

Because the approved funding is lower than required, there are inevitable risks for the work of the SSO. Some of the surveys planned in the strategic documents of the SSO will not be conducted (especially in the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2013-2017), and the SSO will have to prioritise the surveys to be carried out, which means that the Government, the ministries and the public will not be provided with the necessary data within the planned deadlines. For some of the surveys conducted by the SSO it will be necessary to reduce the sample, i.e. the number of reporting units from which data are collected, which will reduce the quality of the data obtained from these surveys.

If there are no optimal conditions for carrying out the surveys planned in the Five-Year Programme, the SSO will not be able to achieve the expected progress in the harmonisation of Macedonian statistics with European regulations, standards and recommendations.

Due to lack of funds, the SSO is unable to settle the financial obligations to business entities that provide various services necessary for normal functioning, as well as the debts for licenses for the software used, which compromise the provision of these services in the future and the implementation of the work program of the SSO.

**Annexe 1:**  
**Overview of the implementation of the Programme of Statistical Surveys**  
**(2012 compared to 2011)**

**Sector of Social Statistics**

Periodicity -area	Number of surveys in 2012	Number of surveys in 2011
<b>Department of Living Standard</b>		
monthly	1	1
annual	2	2
analytical	1	1
five-year	-	-
<b>total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Department of Social Services</b>		
annual	47	47
three-year	1	1
five-year		1
<b>total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Department of Demography and Population Register</b>		
annual	7	7
<b>total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Department of Labour Market</b>		
monthly	1	1
annual	1	1
quarterly	2	1
<b>total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Sector of Social Statistics</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>

**Sector of National Accounts**

Periodicity -area	Number of surveys in 2012	Number of surveys in 2011
<b>Sector of National Accounts</b>		
annual	3 <sup>1)</sup>	4 <sup>1)</sup>
quarterly	1	1
according to Eurostat's survey programme	1	1
analytical	27	27
<b>Total Sector of National Accounts</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>

1) Including the survey on purchasing power parity

**Sector of Business Statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Environmental Statistics**

Periodicity -area	Number of surveys in 2012	Number of surveys in 2011
<b>Department of Environment, Energy and Transport</b>		
<b>Energy</b>		
annual	13	13
monthly	13	13
semi-annual	2	2
<b>Transport</b>		
annual	13	13
five-year	-	2
monthly	4	4
quarterly	1	1
<b>Environment (water, waste)</b>		
<b>Water Economy</b>		
annual	6	6
<b>Waste</b>		
annual	1	1
biennial	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Department of Agricultural Statistics and Farm Register</b>		
<b>Agriculture – general</b>		
three-year	-	-
annual	2	2
monthly	5	5
weekly	-	-
<b>Crop production</b>		
annual	13	13
<b>Livestock production</b>		
annual	2	2
quarterly	1	1
<b>Forestry</b>		
annual	7	7
quarterly	1	1
<b>Hunting and fishing</b>		
annual	2	2
<b>Agricultural prices</b>		
monthly	2	2
quarterly	1	1
<b>Economic accounts for agriculture</b>		
annual	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>

Periodicity -area	Number of surveys in 2012	Number of surveys in 2011
<b>Department of Industry, Construction Statistics and Business Tendencies</b>		
<b>Construction</b>		
annual	6	6
semi-annual	1	1
quarterly	1	1
monthly	3	3
<b>Industry</b>		
monthly	2	2
annual	1	1
<b>Business tendencies</b>		
monthly	2	2
quarterly	2	2
semi-annual	1	1
annual	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Department of Internal and External Trade, ICT, Tourism and Catering</b>		
<b>ICT</b>		
annual	6	6
monthly	3	3
<b>External trade</b>		
monthly	1	1
quarterly	-	-
<b>Internal trade</b>		
annual	1	1
quarterly	-	-
monthly	2	2
biennial	3	-
<b>Catering and tourism</b>		
annual	2	2
quarterly	1	1
monthly	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Department of Prices</b>		
monthly	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Department of Statistical Business Register and Economic Classifications</b>		
-	-	-
<b>Total Sector of Business Statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Environmental Statistics</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Total Programme of Statistical Surveys</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>228</b>

The Programme of Statistical Surveys in 2012 was executed according to the planned schedule.