



Republic of Macedonia
State Statistical Office



STRATEGIC PLAN

2018 - 2020

Skopje, 2018

1.1. INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan 2018-2020 of the State Statistical Office is a document containing the objectives, programmes, sub-programmes and activities which the Office plans to accomplish in accordance with the defined priorities in the process of harmonisation with European and international statistical standards and with the adopted quality management framework.

The priorities, objectives, programmes, sub-programmes and activities defined in this Strategic Plan are aimed at:

- Meeting the obligations pertaining to the State Statistical Office from the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2018-2022, which represents a basic programme document for the statistical system of the country;
- Accomplishing the strategic priorities of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia (NATO and EU integration of the Republic of Macedonia), i.e. meeting the obligations of the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA).

The State Statistical Office carries out its function and activities in accordance with the Law on State Statistics and the Five-Year Programme of Statistical Surveys 2018-2022.

The Strategic Plan takes into consideration the recommendations of the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) from the regular annual missions to the State Statistical Office for monitoring the progress in the field of statistics, and of the European Commission's Peer Review on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was carried out in February 2017.

The Law on State Statistics ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 54/97, 21/07, 51/11, 104/13, 42/14, 192/15 and 27/16) regulates the fundamental principles of official statistics, the organisation of state statistics and the coordinating role of the State Statistical Office within the statistical system in the Republic of Macedonia.

The authorised bodies in the statistical system of the Republic of Macedonia have been defined in the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2018-2022, and, besides the State Statistical Office, the statistical system includes:

- National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Justice
- Hydrometeorological Service
- Institute of Public Health
- Pension and Disability Insurance Fund
- Employment Agency of the Republic of Macedonia

1.2. MISSION

The State Statistical Office produces and disseminates official statistical data on the Macedonian economy and society as a basis for the process of decision making based on relevant information.

1.3. VISION

Our vision is to be recognised as an institution that provides quality, timely and internationally comparable statistical data.

1.3.1. VALUES

The values of the State Statistical Office are:

- Professional Independence
- Competence and Professionalism
- Impartiality and Objectivity
- Quality Commitment
- User Orientation
- Statistical Confidentiality
- Human Potential Development

1.4. TASKS AND DUTIES OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE

The Office, within its competences, performs the following expert activities:

- coordinates the activities of state statistics within the national statistical system,
- prepares and prescribes instruments for statistical surveys (methodologies, guidelines, forms, etc.),
- gives opinion to authorised bodies regarding the methodological bases for surveys under their competence
- gives suggestions and opinions when introducing new and supplementing the existing data sets that can be used as a source of data for state statistics;
- give initiatives and suggestions for improving the contents of existing and new data sets that are used for statistical surveys in accordance with the law and the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2018-2022;
- cooperates with authorised bodies which, within their competences, conduct statistical surveys in the area of state statistics;
- establishes, keeps and maintains statistical data sets;
- prepares national statistical standards;
- determines the needs for statistical data;
- prescribes organisational and technical measures for protection of confidential data;
- collects and processes statistical data;
- performs analysis of statistical data;
- stores and disseminates statistical data;
- meets international obligations in the area of statistics;
- coordinates the transmission of statistical data to international organisations;
- performs services in the area of statistics for the needs of data users, on their request;
- popularises statistics;
- implements projects in the area of state statistics, independently and in cooperation with other authorised bodies;
- supervises the implementation of the provisions of the Law on State Statistics;
- performs other tasks prescribed by the Law on State Statistics and other laws.

1.5. SUMMARY OF THE SPECIFICITY OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE

The State Statistical Office is an independent professional organisation whose competences 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, 82/08, 167/10 and 51/11) and the Law on State Statistics ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 54/97, 21/07, 51/11, 104/13, 42/14, 192/15 and 27/16).

In accordance with the Law on State Statistics, the State Statistical Office, on the basis of scientific methods, provides users (legal and natural persons) with data on the economy, demography, social life, environmental protection and other areas. Official statistical data, as well as the time and content of all forms of dissemination, are protected from any kind of influence, and all users are treated equally.

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

The State Statistical Office performs its role in cooperation with other entities - authorised bodies that are also responsible for producing official statistics under the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2018-2022 and which in the collection, processing and dissemination of data apply statistical standards, methods and techniques. In performing its functions, the State Statistical Office pays special attention to statistical data confidentiality. The data gathered through statistical surveys or indirectly, from administrative and other sources, represent confidential data, used for statistical purposes only, i.e. for development and production of official statistics, and are published as summary (aggregated) data. Within the system of official statistics, the Office also acts as a coordinator of international statistical cooperation. In performing the international obligations, the Office, in cooperation with other authorised bodies, ensures comparability of data with other European countries, observes and implements international methodologies and standards, and actively participates in the development of official statistics at the international level.

1.6. STRUCTURE OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE

The State Statistical Office adopted a new Rulebook on Internal Organisation of the Office in December 2015 in accordance with its competences defined by law and the Regulation on Internal Organisation of the State Administration Bodies ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 93/00 and 14/02).

According to the Rulebook, the Office performs its competences through seven sectors and 39 departments, of which 8 are distributed on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. The organisational setup of the Office allows optimal management and monitoring of work processes and human resources management. The Office is managed by a Director appointed by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. Serving in an advisory role is the Statistical Council, composed of 15 members, of which 14 are appointed by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, while the Director of the Office is an ex-officio member.

1.7. PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE

For the period 2018-2020, the State Statistical Office defined the following priorities:

- Harmonisation of statistics in accordance with the standards of European statistics
- Strengthening the coordinating role of the SSO in the national statistical system
- Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and holders of data sets
- Strengthening the cooperation and communication with users
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the State Statistical Office

1.7.1. Harmonisation of statistics in accordance with the standards of European statistics

Objectives:

- Ensuring further alignment of official statistics with the Statistical Requirements Compendium
- Data and metadata transmission to Eurostat by using the tools and formats prescribed by Eurostat
- Implementation of the action plan for alignment with the revised European Statistics Code of Practice

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2020

1.7.2. Strengthening the coordinating role of the SSO in the national statistical system

Objectives:

- Improving the cooperation with the other authorised bodies in the statistical system through the establishment of a Coordination Committee with representatives from the authorised bodies.
- Strengthening the capacity of authorised bodies through training in statistical methodologies and application of the Code of Practice.

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2020

1.7.3. Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and holders of data sets

Objectives:

- Greater use of administrative data sources in regular statistical production
- Evaluation of eStat by users
- Improving the communication with the business community and the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2020

1.7.4. Strengthening the cooperation and communication with users

Objectives:

- Simplifying the access to statistical data
- Modernising the manner of disseminating statistical data.
- Increasing the amount of published data and providing data with longer time series.
- Measuring user satisfaction
- Carrying out promotional activities and campaigns
- Analysis of the needs for statistical data

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2020

1.7.5. Strengthening the institutional capacity of the State Statistical Office

Objectives:

- Continuous improvement of the system for collecting, processing and producing statistical data
- Development of software applications for supporting the work processes defined in the Statistical Business Process Model
- Development and improvement of statistical registers

- Ensuring continuity in the application of European classifications and standards in the national statistical system
- Modernisation of hardware and achieving consistency between the equipment of the central Office and the regional departments
- Provision and sustainability of advanced software versions used by the institution in statistical production
- Strengthening the capacity of human resources

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2020

1.8. OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVED RESULTS OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN 2016

The planned programmes and expected results for 2016 were defined in the Strategic Plan 2016-2018. The following programmes were defined:

- Sectoral statistics
- Upgrading the statistical infrastructure
- Strengthening the cooperation and communication with users, continuous measurement of user needs and satisfaction, and strengthening the confidence in statistics
- Strengthening the coordination of the national statistical system

1.8.1. In the programme Sectoral statistics, the following sub-programmes were defined:

1. Reducing respondent burden, increased utilisation of administrative data sources
2. Publishing quality reports for statistical surveys
3. Improving the volume and quality of statistical data in accordance with EU standards

Realised activities:

1. Reducing respondent burden, increased utilisation of administrative data sources:

The SSO continued the process of reducing respondent burden, with greater utilisation of data obtained from administrative data sources.

In 2016, the number of statistical surveys for which data are collected through the electronic data collection system was also increased.

2. Publishing quality reports for statistical surveys:

The quality reports prepared/revised according to the ESMS structure have been published on the web site of the SSO.

3. The improvement of the volume and quality of statistical data in accordance with EU standards in 2016 was achieved through the following results:

- The statistical surveys planned in the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2013-2017 have been conducted, and activities have been carried out for preparation of sector accounts for the period 2010-2015. The SSO continued the calculation of the consumption of fixed capital using the PIM method, and examined the possibilities for expanding the use of this method for fixed assets where this method is not applied.
- Further improvements were made to the calculations for compiling the supply and use tables, and an additional system was prepared for calculation at constant prices.
- Implementation of ESA 2010 continued in the regular calculations by sector.
- The group created from representatives of the SSO, the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank worked on compiling the Excessive Deficit Procedure tables.
- The sectorisation group worked regularly on the criteria for sectorisation of business entities by institutional sectors and examined the possibilities for sectorisation of new entities.
- Data from the Farm Structure Survey (conducted in 2013) and the Typology of Agricultural Holdings were published. Farm Structure Survey data were transcoded and transmitted to Eurostat.
- Quality reports were prepared for:
 - Revised quality report and inventory of crop production statistics
 - Quality report on innovation activity
- For short-term statistics on construction, data were seasonally adjusted and regularly transmitted to Eurostat.
- The National Classification of Products by Activity (KPD) was aligned with the new European Classification CPA 2.1.
- In 2016, the energy balances were revised on the basis of the conducted survey on energy consumption in households.
- Some statistical surveys that were postponed in previous years were conducted in 2016:
 - Census of retail trade capacities
 - Census of catering and accommodation capacities
 - Survey on foreign visitors at border crossings and in accommodation establishments

- The enterprise groups database was updated by defining enterprise groups for 2014. Within the IPA 2014 programme, a pilot project on enterprise profiling was carried out.

1.8.2. In the programme Strengthening the cooperation and communication with users, continuous measurement of user needs and satisfaction, and strengthening the confidence in statistics, the following sub-programmes were defined:

1. Further development of user-oriented tools on the website of the SSO
2. Process of further redesign of statistical publications
3. Maintaining regular communication with users

Realised activities:

1. Further development of user-oriented tools on the website of the SSO

- The website is continuously improved and the following activities have been carried out so far:
 - Updating the web database with new data and including time series by areas;
 - Redesign of the website home page;
 - Publication of multi-domain publications: Statistical Yearbook, Regions of the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonia in Figures, Women and Men in the Republic of Macedonia, Sustainable Development, Statistical Album, and Makstat Selection;
 - A new tool, Web Cartography, developed by the State Statistical Office, was posted on the website for showing statistical data at the municipal and territorial level via dynamic map displays;
 - Metadata posted on the website and created according to SDMX standards are continuously updated from the statistical surveys conducted by the SSO;
 - Regular use of Twitter for posting information about the statistical products and activities of the Office.

2. Process of further redesign of statistical publications

- The statistical publications are continuously redesigned for the purpose of harmonisation with European standards. The Office made some graphical changes in the layout of the multi-domain publications and is dedicated to improving the visualisation of the data it publishes.

3. Maintaining regular communication with users

- In 2016, regarding the forms of regular communication with users, the following activities were carried out:
 - Cooperation continued with higher education institutions;
 - An Educational Caravan was organised in secondary schools across the Republic of Macedonia to promote statistical literacy;
 - The Office shortened the deadlines for processing and publishing data from several surveys, thus responding to user requests for the provision of timely and relevant statistics;
 - In order to improve the availability of statistical products, activities began for developing a mobile app – MakStat.

The MakStat database was enriched with new data, which contributed to even greater use of the database as a source of information.

- According to the 2016 report of the non-governmental organisation Open Data Watch (ODW), which deals with research and analysis of the relationship between open data and official statistics, the Macedonian statistical system is ranked 30th worldwide (out of 173 countries) and 6th among the countries of Southern Europe. Among the candidate countries and potential candidates for EU membership, the Macedonian statistical system is in the first place.
- A new version of PX Web was set up on the website, allowing users easier access to the MakStat database;
- Infographics on selected topics are published more frequently.

1.8.3. In the programme Strengthening the coordination of the national statistical system, the following sub-programmes were defined:

1. Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and holders of administrative data sets
2. Strengthening the cooperation with authorised bodies for meeting the obligations within the national statistical system

Realised activities:

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

- Signing of Annex 2 to the Agreement for mutual cooperation and exchange of data and publication materials with the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia.
- There were several presentations in the field of statistics for secondary schools and higher education institutions in the country.

- Signing of Annex 4 to the Memorandum of Cooperation between the State Statistical Office, the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia and the Ministry of Finance.

2. Strengthening the cooperation with authorised bodies for meeting the obligations within the national statistical system

The activities in the defined programmes were performed with the support of the projects in which the State Statistical Office participated in 2016:

National programmes

- As part of the IPA 2012 National Programme, the twinning project "Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards" is in progress. The implementation period is October 2016 - February 2018. The project is implemented by the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, the Consortium of the National Institute of Statistics of Italy, as the Lead Member State Partner, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, as the Junior Member State Partner. A twinning partner was selected for the project and a work plan was adopted.
- The SSO worked on programming the IPA 2017 National Programme as part of the sector fiche for Public Administration Reform.

Multi-beneficiary programmes:

- The implementation of the IPA 2014 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme, which started on 1 October 2015, continued in 2016.
- In 2016, the SSO signed a grant contract with Eurostat for the IPA 2015 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme.

1.9. OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVED RESULTS OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN 2017

The planned programmes and expected results for 2017 were defined in the Strategic Plan 2017-2019. The following programmes were defined:

- Sectoral statistics
- Upgrading the statistical infrastructure
- Strengthening the coordination of the national statistical system
- Strengthening the cooperation with users
- Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and holders of data sets

1.9.1. In the programme Sectoral statistics, the following sub-programmes were defined:

Sub-programmes:

- Improving the volume and quality of produced statistical data in accordance with European and international statistical standards
- Publishing quality reports for statistical surveys
- Reducing respondent burden

Within the defined sub-programmes, the following activities were carried out:

- Within structural business statistics, data on business services for the reference year 2016 have been collected and are being processed. Preparatory activities have been initiated for changing the base year (2010=100) in accordance with the Regulation on short-term statistics (industry, trade and construction). Data from the 2015 E-Rail Traffic Census were published in August 2017 and delivered to UNECE. In the area of agricultural statistics, a regular monthly survey on milk was introduced. Preliminary results of the Farm Structure Survey were published at the beginning of 2017, and data on the typology of agricultural holdings will be released in December 2017. . A pilot survey on orchards and vineyards was carried out in April 2017. The results of the following statistical surveys that were postponed in previous years were published:
 - Census of retail trade capacities
 - Census of catering and accommodation capacities
 - Survey on foreign visitors at border crossings and in accommodation establishments
- In the field of business, agricultural and environmental statistics, electronic data collection continued for a certain number of statistical surveys.

Progress in the field of social statistics was achieved through the following activities:

- Within the Twinning Project, expert and technical support was provided by experts for assessment and analysis of the possibilities for application and evaluation of the quality of the available administrative data sources for census purposes, and preparatory activities are planned as part of IPA 2015 for carrying out a Pilot Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2019.
- The SSO is currently preparing Information to the Government on the course of preparations, required conditions and activities that have to be carried out in the preparation process for the next Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia.

- Regarding health statistics, a meeting was held for improvement of health statistics, organised by the Office of the World Health Organisation in the Republic of Macedonia and the Ministry of Health.
- As part of education statistics, a news release and a publication from the Adult Education Survey were published for 2016.

Data from the Census of school premises of primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools in the Republic of Macedonia were issued in a news release and a publication.

- The Census of school premises of tertiary education institutions is under way via the electronic data collection system, eStat.
- Preparations are in progress for the Pilot Project, which is to be carried out in September 2017, by joining the questionnaires for primary and lower secondary schools at the end of the school year.
- There are also preparations for conducting some of the surveys on higher education via the eStat system.
- Data from the Continuing Vocational Training Survey were published in a news release, while a publication is being prepared for the MakStat database. Microdata and control tables were also transmitted to Eurostat, and a quality report is being prepared.
- Preliminary calculations were made of the gender equality index for the Republic of Macedonia with the assistance and support of the European Institute for Gender Equality.
- In the field of research and development, changes were made to the content of the questionnaires in accordance with the Frascati Manual 2015. Also, four new indicators were calculated.

Data on research and development expenditures were transmitted to Eurostat for the first time.

- Changes were made to the questionnaires for the Survey on Income and Living Conditions, in line with the changes from the recommendations, and a new module was introduced for 2017.
- As part of the IPA 2014 project - Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) - Price Statistics, experimental calculations were made of the House Price Index (HPI). The experimental calculations of the House Price Index (HPI), the updated HICP inventory and the SDMX metadata for the HICP were submitted to Eurostat in August 2017. The source of data is the price register of the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre of the Republic of Macedonia.

In the coming period, the following activities will be undertaken in the field of social statistics:

- Continuing with the assessment of the quality of available databases that will be integrated into the so-called pre-census database (completing the documentation on metadata, assessing the coverage and compliance with Census definitions, determining further steps in collaboration with holders of administrative data sources). The same topics from different sources must be analysed to obtain indicators of quality and coherence of data.
- Promotion of the new method of calculating data on net and gross wages.
- Analyses and preparations for implementing the CAPI method for collecting data in social statistics surveys.
- Continuous improvement of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) and establishment of experimental calculations of the House Price Index.
- Updating the HICP inventory and preparing SDMX metadata for HICP.
- Concerning social protection surveys, plans are made for the provision of qualitative and quantitative data for ESSPROS, as well as for preparation of a quality report on pension beneficiaries and a quality report on Core System and their submission to Eurostat.
- In the sphere of judicial statistics, revision is planned of the instruments for collecting data on the judiciary.
- Survey instruments are being prepared for the pilot survey on Government Budget Allocations for R&D (GBARD).
- The publication on graduated students (first, second and third cycle of studies) will be released in the MakStat database for the first time.

EDP notification tables were prepared and sent to Eurostat, in accordance with the Excessive Deficit Procedure, using Eurostat's deficit and debt methodology.

Activities are under way for compiling national accounts data required for the Eurostat transmission programme.

1.9.2. In the programme Upgrading the statistical infrastructure, the following sub-programmes were planned:

- Further development of statistical registers and improvement of data warehouses
- Improvement of the information security system
- Standardisation of work processes according to the Business Process Model
- Preparation of statistical nomenclatures and classifications

Within the defined sub-programmes, the following activities were carried out:

- Regarding the Statistical Business Register, activities have been undertaken to improve the scope and update the variables for business entities. Within the twinning project, a procedure was prepared for implementation of the "top-down" method for defining the primary and secondary activities of the business entities. As a result of the activities under IPA 2014, profiling of enterprise groups was carried out and the results were submitted to Eurostat in March 2017. By applying

the regular updating procedures, enterprise groups were created for 2015 (submitted to Eurostat in June 2017). The IPA 2015 project for improvement of the Statistical Business Register was launched, which should result in the establishment of a procedure for automated creation of enterprise groups. In 2017, within the IPA 2014, activities were initiated to examine the possibilities for using administrative sources from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy for updating the Statistical Farm Register.

- Further development of statistical registers and improvement of data warehouses
- Improvement of the information security system
- Standardisation of work processes according to the Business Process Model
- Preparation of statistical nomenclatures and classifications

Within the defined sub-programmes, the following activities were carried out:

- A set of procedures and guidelines was compiled for information security in the SSO.
- The Information Security Policy was updated.
- Procedures and guidelines were developed for standardisation of work activities in the SSO in accordance with the Business Process Model.
- A new section was developed on the SSO web site, dedicated to Classifications (National Classifications and Correspondence Tables) both in Macedonian and in English language, where the classifications are organised and easily accessible in different formats, versions and correspondence tables.
- The existing Classification of Institutional Sectors from 2010 was revised. The SSO published on its website the Classification of Institutional Sectors 2016, resulting from the implementation of the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010) and which will provide a comprehensive overview of financial services as a result of the development trends in one of the fastest growing segments in most national economies.
- The following classifications were prepared/updated:
 - Nomenclature of Buildings and Construction Works (NGOGR), in line with CC 98 and CPA 2015
 - National Nomenclature of Industrial Products (NNIP) 2015, in line with PRODCOM 2015
 - Transport Classification of Goods (TKS) 2015, in line with NST 2007
 - Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (KLPN) 2017, in line with ECOICOP 2010
 - Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Expenditure (KATZZS) 2015, in line with CEPA 2000
 - Statistical Classification of Waste (SKOT) 2017, in line with EWC 2010
 - The National Nomenclature of Industrial Products – NNIP was harmonised with the European nomenclature at the annual level. By the end of 2016,

the Government of the Republic of Macedonia should adopt the changes in the National Nomenclature of Industrial Products – NNIP 2015.

1.9.3. In the programme Strengthening the coordination of the national statistical system, the following sub-programmes were defined:

- Analysis of the application of legislation and implementation of current cooperation agreements with authorised bodies.
- Providing human and financial resources to accomplish the function of the SSO - coordinator of the statistical system.
- Preparation of training plans for implementation of the statistical function of authorised bodies.

Within the defined sub-programmes, the following activities were carried out:

- A procedure was initiated for analysis of the Law on State Statistics and the signed cooperation agreements with authorised bodies.
- A procedure is under way for determining the necessary human and financial resources of the SSO and authorised bodies for the preparation of a comprehensive plan.
- A process is under way for assessing the training needs of authorised bodies, which will be followed by a procedure for development of a Training Plan.

1.9.4. Strengthening the cooperation with users

The ultimate objective of statistical data production is meeting users' needs for official statistical data.

Sub-programmes:

- Modernising the manner of disseminating statistical data.
- Improving "statistical literacy"

Within the defined sub-programmes, the following activities were carried out:

- Updating the web database with data from publications in the Statistical Reviews edition and including time series by areas.
- The MakStat mobile app was launched.
- A user satisfaction survey was conducted and the results are available on the web site.
- Infographics on selected topics are published more frequently.
- Around 200 quality reports prepared according to the ESMS structure were published on the web site.
- Regular use of Twitter for posting information about the statistical products and activities of the Office.

- Several publications from the Statistical Reviews edition have been discontinued, and the data may be found in the MakStat database.
- Publication of multi-domain publications: Statistical Yearbook, Regions of the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonia in Figures, Women and Men in the Republic of Macedonia, Sustainable Development, Environmental Statistics, and MakStat Selection (as part of the celebration of European Statistics Day, 20 October).
- Cooperation continued with higher education institutions and secondary schools.

1.9.5. Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and holders of data sets

Sub-programmes:

- Establishment of a system for measuring the quality of administrative data sources
- Continuous improvement of the electronic data collection system and increasing the number of included surveys
- Defining a policy for communication with data providers

Realised activities:

- Based on the comments and suggestions by internal and external users, numerous improvements were made in the electronic data collection system (eSat).
- The activities in the defined programmes were performed with the support of the projects in which the State Statistical Office participated in 2017:

National programmes

- As part of the IPA 2012 National Programme, the twinning project "Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards" is in progress.
- The tender procedure for redesign of the data warehouse for national accounts, funded under the IPA 2013 project, was completed. Signing of a contract is expected in November. The implementation should begin at the end of 2017 and will last for 22 months.
- The SSO worked on programming the IPA 2017 National Programme as part of the sector fiche for Public Administration Reform.

Multi-beneficiary programmes:

- The implementation of the IPA 2014 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme, which began on 1 October 2015, was completed.

- On 1 July 2017, the SSO started the implementation of the IPA 2015 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme, in the form of a grant contract. This grant includes the following pilot projects:
 1. Government finance and excessive deficit procedure statistics
 2. Harmonised index of consumer prices
 3. Price statistics – purchasing power parity (PPP)
 4. Business registers
 5. Short-term business statistics: implementation of ESS guidelines and standards
 6. Transport statistics - passenger and freight statistics
 7. Tourism statistics
 8. Labour force survey
 9. Social protection statistics (ESSPROS)
 10. Crop statistics: annual crop statistics (ACS) and permanent crop statistics
 11. Animal production statistics
 12. Ad-hoc project on the use of auxiliary information in the sample design and estimation phase of the statistical production process
 13. Ad-hoc project on data warehouse (DWH) for national accounts - methodological aspects
 14. Ad-hoc project on the preparation of the population and housing census 2021

The Programme also includes the following service contracts:

1. National accounts methodology
2. Transmission programme, annual national accounts (ANA), quarterly national accounts (QNA) and quality reporting
3. Regional accounts
4. Sector accounts
5. Supply, use and input-output tables (SUT/IOT)
6. Preparation of the population and housing census 2021
7. Quality management
8. Implementing standards for metadata and data exchange
9. Source (basic) data required for the calculation of the MIP indicators
10. Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) indicators
11. South East Europe 2020 (SEE2020) indicators

The Programme will last until 31 October 2019.

Regional project - SME innovation capacity boost

The project, which started on 1 August 2017 and will last 24 months or until 31 July 2019, is part of the INTERREG Transnational Programme "Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020". Within this project, the State Statistical Office aims to conduct a survey on innovation, and the obtained statistics will be used for the needs of the project.

Measuring and assessing organised crime in the Western Balkans: supporting evidence-based policy

The project is coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Research and Trend Analysis Branch. It started on 1 April 2016 and will last 36 months, until 31 March 2019. The objective of the project is to develop and implement a framework for quantifying and analysing organised crime in the Western Balkans and to establish mechanisms to monitor it and to produce an evidence-based analytical report on organised crime in the Western Balkans.

1.10. PROGRAMMES

For achieving the planned priorities and objectives of the Strategic Plan 2018-2020, the following programmes have been defined:

1. SECTORAL STATISTICS

2. UPGRADING THE STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

3. STRENGTHENING THE COORDINATING ROLE OF THE SSO IN THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

4. STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH USERS

5. STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH PROVIDERS OF DATA AND HOLDERS OF DATA SETS

The implementation of all programmes requires the engagement of appropriate human and financial resources, and the timeframe for their implementation is defined in the Plan for Implementation of the Statistical Programme, which is part of this document.