

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE

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# **STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2014**

**Skopje, November 2011**



The Strategic Plan for development of the State Statistical Office for the period 2012-2014 is based on the vision that the Office will be recognised as an institution that produces and disseminates objective, timely and reliable statistical data.

The State Statistical Office provides quality, timely and relevant statistical information in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics of the United Nations and the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which, among other things, refer to the professional independence and neutrality of the institution, strict statistical standards, data

confidentiality, and care for the respondents.

In an era of ever faster global changes, statistical institutions need to be prepared and to adjust their activities to the new user requirements. For that purpose, the State Statistical Office defined the primary objectives, priorities and programmes for development for the next three-year period. The objective of the Strategy 2012-2014 is to provide a framework for implementation of the programme goals that will enable the SSO to develop into a more efficient and modern institution, capable of establishing its priorities in accordance with user needs. At the same time, the strategic planning of the State Statistical Office, acting as chief coordinator of the national statistical system, is based on promotion of cooperation, innovation and efficiency.

The priorities for development of the State Statistical Office, which are important for achievement of the main objectives defined in the Strategy for the period 2012-2014, are:

1. Harmonisation of statistics in accordance with the EU standards
2. Strengthening the coordination of the National Statistical System
3. Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and bearers of administrative data sets
4. Strengthening the cooperation and communication with users, continuous measurement of user needs and satisfaction, and strengthening the confidence in statistics
5. Strengthening the institutional capacity of the State Statistical Office

The projects and programmes contained in this Strategy should enable the State Statistical Office to respond adequately to future challenges, and especially the challenge of strengthening the capacities for further harmonisation of statistics with EU standards.

The achievement of the goals will contribute toward a clearer perception of the role of the State Statistical Office in the process of European integration and toward maintaining the public's trust in the institution and its products.

Sincerely,  
Blagica Novkovska, MSc  
Director-General of the State Statistical Office

## **1.1. INTRODUCTION**

The Strategic Plan 2012-2014 of the State Statistical Office represents a basic plan for development, containing programmes and projects through which the Office plans to accomplish its priorities and goals in the following three-year period.

The programmes, activities and objectives defined in this Strategic Plan are, on one the hand, aimed at accomplishing the Government's priorities, and on the other, in function of ensuring continuity in the quality of our work and supporting the Office in the production of higher-quality services in the future.

The Strategic Plan contains the recommendations of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (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 Light Peer Review of the progress in the implementation of the Code of Practice. In September 2011, an assessment mission was carried out by Eurostat as regards the preparations and the implementation of the direct grant, IPA 2009 Multi-Beneficiary Programme (IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance).

Some of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice were implemented in the amendments to the Law on State Statistics, published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 51/11. The amendments to the Law on State Statistics served to achieve partial harmonisation with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The purpose of the amendments to the Law on State Statistics is: to create a comprehensive legal framework for production and dissemination of high-quality statistical data, especially in defining the quality standards and implementing the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the work of the State Statistical Office and the authorised bearers, and to define the conditions for passive confidentiality. The role of the Office as coordinator of the statistical system of the country is emphasised in order to strengthen the public's confidence in the quality of data produced by both the Office and the authorised bearers of statistics.

The new web page of the State Statistical Office became operational on 11.05.2011. It is designed according to user needs and requirements, and in accordance with European standards.

The structure of this plan is based on the regulations and recommendations of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. Therefore, the Strategic Plan of the State Statistical Office, regarding the structure and contents, deviates to a degree from the strategies of other institutions of the European statistical system.

A number of employees from all levels in the Office were involved in the preparation of this plan, which was approved by the Executive Body of the State Statistical Office.

## **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. Published statistical data must be accurate, timely, impartial, accessible and easy to use.

### **1.3. VISION**

To be recognised as an institution that provides quality, timely and internationally comparable statistical data.

#### **1.3.1. VALUES**

The values that the State Statistical Office upholds and adheres to in practice are those of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which consists of fifteen principles referring to the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs:

- Professional Independence
- Mandate for Data Collection
- Adequacy of Resources
- Quality Commitment
- Statistical Confidentiality
- Impartiality and Objectivity
- Sound Methodology
- Appropriate Statistical Procedures
- Non-Excessive Burden on Respondents
- Cost Effectiveness
- Relevance
- Accuracy and Reliability
- Timeliness and Punctuality
- Coherence and Comparability
- Accessibility and Clarity

#### **1.4. TASKS AND DUTIES OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

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

- Determines needs for statistical data;
- Prescribes, develops and harmonises methodological bases for statistical surveys;
- Performs analysis of statistical data and interprets the results of statistical surveys;
- Meets international obligations in the area of statistics;
- Cooperates with authorised bearers which, within their competences, perform statistical surveys in the area of state statistics;
- Gives opinion to authorised bearers regarding the methodological bases;
- When it is necessary to assess the methodology or quality of the source of data that are required for statistical surveys or for the censuses, the Office conducts pilot surveys;
- 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;
- Develops methods and techniques for individual data protection and for presenting the results of the statistical surveys;
- Implements projects in the area of state statistics, independently and in cooperation with other bearers;
- Establishes, keeps and maintains statistical registers and databases
- Popularises statistics.

## **1.5. SUMMARY OF THE SPECIFICITY OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

The State Statistical Office is an independent expert 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 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 services and other users, with information on the conditions and movements of the national economy, human resources, demography, environment 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.

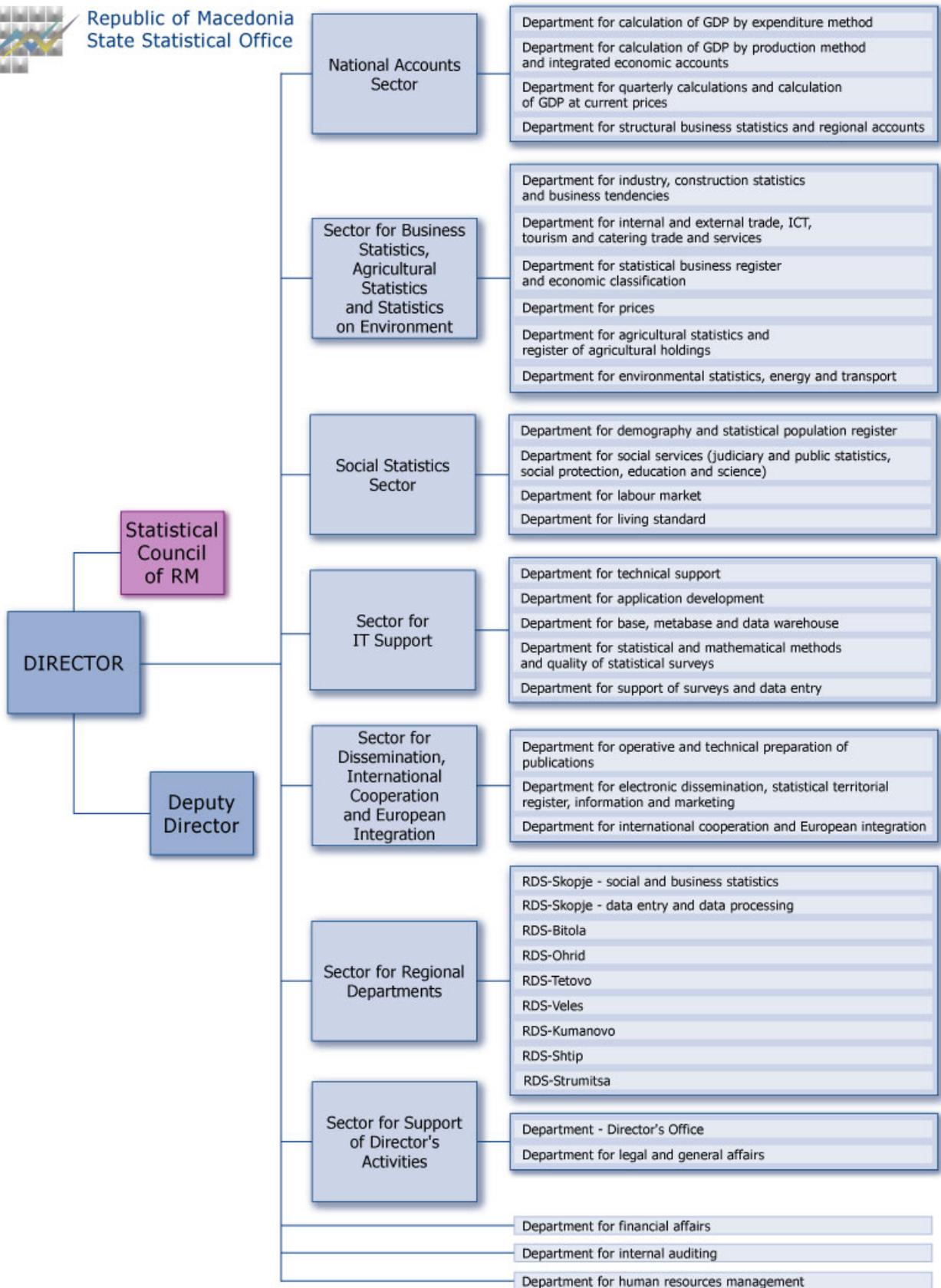
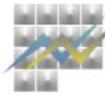
The State Statistical Office realises its role in cooperation with other entities-authorized bearers that are also responsible for producing official statistics in the frame of their defined competences. In performing its functions, the State Statistical Office pays special attention to statistical data confidentiality. The data gathered from the reporting units represent confidential data, used for statistical purposes only and published as aggregated data. Within the system of official statistics, the Office acts as a coordinator in the frames of international statistical cooperation. In performing the international obligations, the Office, in cooperation with other authorized bearers, ensures the comparability of data with other European countries, observes and implements international standards, and actively participates in the development of official statistics at the international level.

The Statistical Council of the Republic of Macedonia is an important factor that contributes towards affirmation and raising of the level of expertise of the state statistics. The Statistical Council is an advisory and expert body for state statistics. The Council has 15 members appointed by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, which are representatives of a wide range of entities from all areas of the social, economic and political life of our country.

## **1.6. STRUCTURE OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

The State Statistical Office adopted a new Rulebook on Internal Organisation of the Office in November 2011 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 36 departments. The Rulebook has been adopted for the purpose of further harmonisation of the organisational setup of the Office in order to best focus human resources towards accomplishing the primary activity of the Office and the established strategic goals.



## **1.7. PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

### **1.7.1 Harmonisation of statistics in accordance with the EU standards**

Objectives:

- Preparing the Five-Year Statistical Programme, 2013-2017.
- Further harmonisation of statistical surveys with EU methodologies.
- Implementation of the Light Peer Review recommendations for applying the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.
- Data transmission to Eurostat through the single data entry point, using the tools and forms prescribed by Eurostat.
- Establishing and maintaining a centralised metadata warehouse

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2014

### **1.7.2. Strengthening the coordination of the National Statistical System**

Objectives:

- Further strengthening the role of the State Statistical Office as a coordinator of the National Statistical System.
- Support for strengthening the capacity of authorised bearers 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 bearers in the National Statistical System.

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2014

### **1.7.3. Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and bearers of administrative data sets**

Objectives:

- Raising awareness of the significance of official statistics
- Inclusion of the State Statistical Office in the process of updating the administrative data sources
- Reducing respondent burden

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2014

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

Objectives:

- Easy user access to official statistical data.
- Reducing the time period from data collection to data publishing.
- Preparing statistical products according to users' expectations.
- Implementation of the policy for access to anonymised microdata for scientific research purposes.

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2014

### **1.7.5. Strengthening the institutional capacity of the State Statistical Office**

Objectives:

- Sustainability and improvement of the capacities of human and technical resources.
- Strengthening of the capacities for working processes management.
- Strengthening the capacities for EU negotiations.
- Rational utilisation of available financial assets, including the pre-accession funds.

Planned deadline for priority realisation: 2014

## **1.8. OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVED RESULTS OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN 2010**

### **1.8.1. The following was adopted in the area of statistical standards:**

- Law on Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011.
- Nomenclature of Raw Materials.

### **1.8.2. Methodological improvements in statistical surveys**

- Experimental calculations have been made of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP).
- An additional ad hoc module (reconciliation between work and family life) was implemented within the Labour Force Survey.
- A sample was designed for the new Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC).
- The methodological bases and instruments for conducting the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011 have been defined.
- A manual for revising the documents on territorial units for the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011 has been adopted in cooperation with the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre.
- Regular harmonisation of the statistical surveys in the area of business, agricultural and environmental statistics as regards the methodological bases, content of statistical forms, introduction of new variables, etc.
- A quality report on industrial waste was prepared and submitted to Eurostat.
- The Road Traffic Census methodology has been prepared.
- The Rail Traffic Census methodology has been prepared.
- The National Classification of Activities – NKD Rev.2 and the National Nomenclature of Industrial Products – NNIP 2008 have been implemented in the calculation and publication of the industrial production index and the industrial producer price index. At the same time, the indices for the period 2005-2010 have been recalculated and published according to the new classification and nomenclature.
- Development of the Statistical Business Register by continuous work on introducing the statistical unit - enterprise group (the variables related to the enterprise group have been defined and administrative sources have been identified), in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 177/2008; calculation of the population of newly born and surviving enterprises in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 295/2008.

- The methodological bases for calculating the basic variables for structural business statistics have been defined in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 250/2009.
- GDP data for the series 2003-2007 were revised in accordance with the following regulations:
  - Commission Regulation (EC) No 1722/2005, regarding the principles for calculation of rentals.
  - Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1287/2003 on the harmonisation of gross national income at market prices, and Council Regulation (EC) No. 448/98 on calculation and allocation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured.

### **1.8.3. New surveys introduced**

- A Structure of Earnings Pilot Survey was conducted.
- The first wave of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) was realised.
- Regular surveys have been introduced in the area of business tendencies, concerning investments and financial services.
- A Pilot Survey on Pesticide Use was conducted.
- A Farm Structure Survey was conducted.
- An ad hoc survey on gross fixed capital formation of business entities with less than ten employees was conducted for the period 2007-2009.
- Satellite accounts for cooperatives and mutuels have been prepared.

### **1.8.4. Dissemination of statistical data**

In the area of dissemination, the following documents were adopted in 2010:

- Dissemination strategy and an action plan for its implementation.
- Document for technical and changes in terms of content and design of the web page of the SSO, and an action plan for its implementation.

The following results were achieved:

- The statistical database available on the Internet has been supplemented with data by areas and by regions.
- The number of visitors to the web page has increased to 851865, while the web database alone has been visited 11000 times.
- 295 issues have been published in the "News Releases" edition, 29 issues in the "Statistical Reviews" edition, as well as 10 other publications.
- There have been 672 written requests for data both from domestic and international users.
- The SSO was covered in 689 articles in print media.

### **1.8.5. Horizontal issues**

- Annexe 1 was signed to the Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia and with the Ministry of Finance, regarding statistics on foreign direct investments.
- 10 statistical surveys have been documented in accordance with the Euro SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) structure (ESMS), of which 8 bilingually (Macedonian and English).

- Mapping has been established between the ESMS concepts and the concepts needed for preparing quality reports, for the purpose of using the ESMS system for production of quality reports on statistics as well.
- Maintaining and improving the modules of the Cost Calculation System in accordance with the established Catalogue of Cost Units.
- The volume of transmission of statistical data to Eurostat via eDamis (eWA, eWP, eWF) has increased compared to last year. There is regular support to other participants in the official statistical system (upon direct request or through occasional trainings) for using the eDamis system. For the first time, data transmission was made regarding industrial waste for 2008, annual survey on industry, retail trade, turnover in industry, construction costs in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics, and labour costs. Quarterly transmission of Labour Force Survey data was made for the first time, as well.
- A decision has been made for using the metadata system of Statistics Sweden (MetaPlus), which has been installed for trial purposes in the IT environment of the SSO.
- Preparation and adoption of a business process model of the SSO in accordance with the generic business process model suggested by UNECE, for the purpose of establishing a common framework for understanding and documenting the processes in all areas of statistical production.
- Activities resulting from the quality strategy: trainings held for 30 employees of the State Statistical Office regarding the preparation of quality reports.
- Several external and internal trainings were organised for the employees of the State Statistical Office, bearing in mind the significance of trainings in the process of human resources management aimed at producing high quality official statistics. In 2010, as part of the external trainings, 73 employees took part in 50 meetings of Eurostat working groups, and 444 persons took part in 119 external training courses. Furthermore, one person had the opportunity to work as trainee in Eurostat. Within the institution, a total of 226 employees participated in 13 internal training courses in the areas of methodologies, Statistical Business Register, quality, IPA 2009 Multi-Beneficiary Programme grants, strategic planning, and legal bases of state statistics.

#### **1.8.6. International activity of the State Statistical Office**

- The employees of the SSO actively participated in the process of monitoring and updating the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis, regarding the objectives and activities that were planned to be achieved in 2010.
- The assessment of the Republic of Macedonia in the Statistical Management Information System (SMIS+) was submitted and confirmed on time.
- The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), in the period 2-3 June, realised its regular annual mission in the SSO in order to:
  - monitor the progress since the last assessment mission (2009) and assess the current situation of the statistical system of the Republic of Macedonia;
  - discuss the process of data transmission;
  - discuss future EU assistance within the frames of the national and multi-beneficiary IPA programmes, as well as other foreign assistance.

- In the period 2-5 November, a Light Peer Review was undertaken conducted in the State Statistical Office (SSO) in order to determine the extent to which the work of the SSO is harmonised with principles 1-6 and 15 of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The review resulted in a Report containing an assessment of the harmonisation with the European Statistics Code of Practice, at the level of indicators and principles. The Report was prepared on the basis of information gathered during the mission and the materials previously submitted by the SSO. Based on the implementation of the Report's recommendations ([http://www.stat.gov.mk/publikacii/LPRFinalReport\\_mk.pdf](http://www.stat.gov.mk/publikacii/LPRFinalReport_mk.pdf)), Eurostat will assess the progress of the State Statistical Office.
- As part of the preparations for the 2010 round of Population Censuses, the State Statistical Office participated in the meetings of the Technical Coordination Group of Eurostat. Also, two missions were held by the European Commission for assessing the progress in the preparations for the upcoming Census of Population, Households and Dwellings, 2011
- As a result of the Budva Initiative for cooperation between statistical offices of the countries of Southeast Europe, the State Statistical Office was the initiator for organising the First Regional Conference on Agricultural Statistics, which was held in Skopje on 31.05.2010.
- In 2010, the SSO, as a consortium partner with the ICON Institute in the project "Assisting Montenegro in Approximating EU Standards in Statistics", provided short-term expert assistance in the areas: strategic planning and national accounts.

#### **1.8.7. Projects in which the State Statistical Office was included in 2010**

- IPA 2007 National Programme
- IPA 2008 - Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme
- IPA 2009 - Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme
- Macedonian-Swedish partnership in statistics 2009-2011
- European Commission grant for conducting the Consumer Opinion Survey
- Eurostat grant for conducting the Labour Force Survey 2010, ad hoc module on reconciliation between work and family life.
- European Commission grant for Satellite Accounts for Cooperatives and Mutuals

### **1.9 OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVED AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE IN 2011**

#### **1.9.1. The following was adopted in the area of statistical standards:**

- Nomenclature of Agricultural Products
- National Classification of Occupations – NKZ 2008 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 37/11)
- List of energy commodities, harmonised with the Classification of Products by Activity and the Combined Nomenclature

#### **1.9.2. Methodological improvements in statistical surveys**

- Regular calculation of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) has been established.

- The National Classification of Activities NKD Rev.2 was applied in the survey on employees and wages and in the Labour Force Survey.
- A pilot survey was implemented for introducing CATI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing) and CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing) in the Labour Force Survey.
- The second wave of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) was realised (including methodological improvements).
- Based on the adopted methodological bases and instruments for conducting the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011, the Office completed all organisational and technical preparations for conducting the Census in the period 1-15 April. After the postponement of the Census until 1-15 October, all necessary methodological adjustments were performed for conducting the Census on the new date.
- The census field activities were terminated with the adoption of the Law on Cessation of the Validity of the Law on Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011.
- The documents on territorial units and other instruments for the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011, have been prepared.
- Regular harmonisation of the statistical surveys in the area of business, agricultural and environmental statistics as regards the methodological bases, introduction of new variables, seasonal adjustments, etc.
- Transcodification matrices have been prepared for data from the 2007 Agricultural Census and the 2010 Farm Structure Survey.
- Monitoring of changes in agricultural holdings has been introduced in the Register of Agricultural Holdings and updating procedures have been implemented.
- Development of the Statistical Business Register by continuous work on introducing the statistical unit - enterprise group, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 177/2008, and calculation of the population of newly born and surviving enterprises in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 295/2008.
- GDP data for 2009 and 2010 have been prepared according to NKD Rev.2.
- Gross fixed capital formation for 2010 has been calculated according to NKD Rev.2.
- Data on structural statistics for industry for 2009 and 2010 have been prepared according to NKD Rev.2.
- Calculations have begun of a series of data on quarterly GDP by the expenditure approach, at current prices, according to the chain-linking method, for the period 2004-2011.
- New sustainable development indicators have been calculated.

### **1.9.3. Introduction of new surveys**

- A Structure of Earnings Survey was conducted.
- A Job Vacancy Pilot Survey was conducted.
- The Continuous Vocational Training Survey was conducted as a regular survey (the pilot survey was conducted in 2010).
- A survey was conducted regarding waste from Energy, mining and quarrying.
- A monthly survey on turnover in trade was conducted in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics.

- New variables were introduced for the quarterly cost indices, in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics on new residential buildings (total costs, material costs and labour costs).
- Statistical data were prepared regarding the typology of agricultural holdings according to the type of farming and their economic size, as well as data on the structure of agricultural holdings.

#### **1.9.4. Dissemination of statistical data**

As regards dissemination, the new web page of the State Statistical Office became operational on 11.05.2011. The web page has been designed according to user needs and requirements and in accordance with European standards. Information about news releases, publications, classifications and other information are arranged by themes. The advance release calendar is dynamic, contains information about publication dates of news releases for the entire year, and offers the possibility to search by different criteria. Several tools have been introduced: consumer price index calculator, Europe 2020 indicators, possibility to choose a set of gender statistics data, possibility to search by municipalities and settlements and visualisation of statistical data on industry, consumer prices, unemployment and gross domestic product.

A "User Support" section has been added to the web page, in Macedonian and in English. An RSS (Really Simple Syndication) channel has been implemented both on the web page and the Intranet. A user opinion poll was also posted on the web page.

The following results were achieved:

- The amount of disaggregated data available in the web database has increased.
- The web page has had 1250000 hits, while the web database has been visited 43000 times.
- 290 issues have been published in the "News Releases" edition
- 30 issues have been published in the "Statistical Reviews" edition
- 7 other publications have been published:
  - Statistical Yearbook
  - Monthly Statistical Bulletin (Macedonian and English editions)
  - Short-term Statistical Data on Economic Movements
  - Macedonia in Figures (Macedonian and English editions)
  - Sustainable Development
  - Environment (Macedonian and English editions)
  - 20 Years of Independent Macedonia (Macedonian and English editions)
- In the period between 1 January and 10 November 2011, there have been 569 written requests for data both from domestic and international users.
- The SSO was covered in 622 statistics-related articles in print media.

#### **1.9.5. Horizontal issues**

- With the aim of promoting the application of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the SSO published the Code in Macedonian language on its web page.
- The amendments to the Law on State Statistics have been adopted.
- The volume of transmission of statistical data to Eurostat via eDamis (eWA, eWP, eWF) has increased compared to last year. Data from the E-Road Traffic

Census and the E-Rail Traffic Census have been submitted to Eurostat. There is regular support to other participants in the official statistical system (upon direct request or through occasional trainings).

- The statistical business process model is implemented in the preparation of the Annual Work Programme.
- A programme was prepared for ensuring quality in the data processing phase of the Census.
- Activities have begun for implementation of the statistical disclosure control methods.
- Activities have begun for application of statistical and mathematical procedures for data validation and imputation.
- The third self-assessment was conducted by using the CAF tool.
- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Economic Chamber.
- In 2011, the State Statistical Office continued to pay particular attention to external and internal training of employees, for the purpose of developing crucial skills in employees. As part of the external trainings, in the period January-November 2011, 29 employees took part in 26 meetings of Eurostat working groups, and 443 persons took part in 95 external training courses. Furthermore, one person works as a trainee in Eurostat. Within the institution, a total of 72 employees participated in 3 internal training courses regarding the operation and future activities of the Library of the State Statistical Office (2 trainings with different target groups) and in the area of the statistical register and typology of agricultural holdings.

#### **1.9.6. International activity of the State Statistical Office**

- The State Statistical Office submitted and confirmed on time the assessment of the Republic of Macedonia in the Statistical Management Information System (SMIS+).
- A Eurostat delegation held a working meeting with representatives of the State Statistical Office regarding the IPA 2009 Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme.
- As part of the preparations for the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011, three missions were held by the European Commission for assessing the progress in the preparations for the upcoming Census of Population, Households and Dwellings, 2011. In the period 1-15 October 2011, the European Commission conducted its sixth mission for monitoring and assessing the execution of field activities in the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings.
- The SSO, as a consortium partner with the ICON Institute in the project "Assisting Montenegro in Approximating EU Standards in Statistics", continued to provide short-term expert assistance in the area of national accounts.
- In the period 1-3 September 2011, the State Statistical Office hosted a delegation of the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria. The institutions shared their experience in the harmonisation of national statistics with EU standards and the implementation of EU legislation.

#### **1.9.7. Projects in which the State Statistical Office takes part**

- **IPA 2007 National Programme** – Within the National Programme, the following important results were achieved in 2011: a Strategy has been

created for developing a metainformation system, documents have been prepared for regulating the access to microdata for scientific research purposes, a Manual has been drawn up for protection against statistical disclosure, skills have been developed for implementing statistical disclosure software, guidelines have been drafted for dissemination of statistics, experimental calculations have been made of the Laeken poverty indicators, sets of tables for the UOE 2010 joint questionnaire are transmitted to Eurostat via eDamis, the Continuous Vocational Training Survey has been prepared, the Structure of Earnings Pilot Survey has been conducted and the regular survey has been prepared, progress has been achieved in compiling sector accounts, excessive deficit (EDP) tables have been drawn up, supply and use tables have been compiled, knowledge of the European System of Accounts – ESA 95 has been improved, etc.

- **IPA 2008 – Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme.** The implementation of the programme finished in September 2011. Within this project, the following important activities were accomplished: submitting the inventories of the economic accounts for agriculture to Eurostat, transcoding of data from the first Farm Structure Survey, conducting the Job Vacancy Survey, improvement of data on gross fixed capital formation of small entities, calculation of the exhaustiveness of data on tourism, etc.
- **IPA 2009 – Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme.** Within this programme, the following results were achieved in 2011: preparing and submitting comparative statistics on foreign trade to Eurostat, conducting a pilot survey on health care prices, conducting a survey on real estate agencies (in progress), procurement of technical equipment for conducting the computer-assisted Labour Force Survey, etc.
- **The Macedonian-Swedish partnership in statistics 2009-2011 is in the final stages of implementation.** The following IT equipment was purchased in 2011:
  - data modelling software licences (2) and NET application development software (7),
  - 2 database servers,
  - software for statistical disclosure control of tabular data
- **Planned projects**
  - IPA 2009 National Programme – Support to the SSO
  - IPA 2012 National Programme – Capacity building of the SSO

## 1.10. PROGRAMMES

The accomplishment of the planned priorities and goals of the Strategic Plan is based on the following defined programmes: Sectoral statistics, Upgrading the statistical infrastructure, Improving the cooperation with users and Strengthening the coordination of the National Statistical System. The realisation of all programmes requires the engagement of appropriate human and financial resources, and the schedule for their realisation is defined in the Plan for Implementation of the Statistical Programme, which is part of this document.

### **1.10.1. Sectoral statistics**

The realisation of this programme means fulfilling the basic function of the SSO and refers to the implementation of the Programme for Statistical Surveys.

Expected results:

- Reducing respondent burden
- Providing regional data
- Preparing quality reports for statistical surveys
- Improving the quality and quantity of statistical data in accordance with EU standards
- Increased utilisation of administrative data sources.

Success indicators:

- Implementing an action plan for reducing respondent burden
- Increased number of surveys in which data are collected directly in electronic form
- Redesigned questionnaires
- Increased number of sample-based surveys
- A series of regional data provided
- Increased number of survey quality reports
- EU regulations implemented
- New statistical data published
- Increased amount of data transmitted to Eurostat through the Single Entry Point by using the standards and formats prescribed by Eurostat
- Increased number of surveys that use administrative data sources
- Reduced printing and distribution costs

### **1.10.2. Upgrading the statistical infrastructure**

In order for the SSO to fulfil its basic function, it is necessary to invest continuously in strengthening of the institutional capacity. For that purpose, plans have been made to enhance the human resources as well as the technical capacity of the institution.

Expected results:

- Development of the Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings
- Development of the Statistical Business Register
- Development of the Population Register
- Development of the Statistical Territorial Register
- Established policy for revision of statistical data, classifications and nomenclatures
- Standardisation and integration of statistical processes
- Sustainability of the Office's capacities
- New Law on State Statistics
- Adoption of an information security policy

Success indicators:

- Implementation of the established procedures for updating the register of agricultural holdings from administrative sources.
- Establishment of a new statistical unit – enterprise group, and production of data on enterprise demography
- Introduction of an identification number for each statistical unit separately
- Improvement of the methodological bases and functionality of the population register
- Functionality of the procedures for updating the statistical territorial register by using the administrative territorial register
- Existence of transparent procedures and rules for revision of statistical data
- Adopted Quality Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2012-2014
- Described statistical variables
- Laws and by-laws adopted and harmonised with EU regulations
- Employee satisfaction survey conducted
- Self-assessment conducted according to CAF (Common Assessment Framework)
- Analysis performed on the basis of the cost calculation system from the daily registration of activities and from the copying and printing records.
- Defined objective indicators for measuring the efficiency of resources used in separate surveys
- New Law on State Statistics adopted
- Software developed/adjusted for implementing the methods for protection against statistical disclosure

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

The ultimate objective of the statistical data production is meeting users' needs for official statistical data, thus supporting the democratic processes of the country.

Expected results:

- Further improvement of the web page of the Office
- Redesign of statistical publications
- Defined forms of regular communication with users
- Development of a User Registry

Success indicators:

- Increased amount of statistical data available on the web page
- Redesigned publications
- Increased number of users of the products and services of the State Statistical Office

#### **1.10.4. Strengthening the coordination of the National Statistical System**

The State Statistical Office has a legal obligation to coordinate the national statistical system. In the period covered with this Strategic Plan, the institution will invest more resources in strengthening its coordinating role and in ensuring consistency of the Macedonian statistical system.

Expected results:

- Strengthening the cooperation with providers of data and bearers of administrative data sources
- Strengthening the cooperation with authorised bearers for realisation of the obligations within the National Statistical System

Success indicators:

- Number of realised working meetings and increased amount of data used from administrative sources
- Number of realised trainings in certain areas of common interest