

Summary of the Project “Technical Assistance to the State Statistical Office”

Basic facts:

Project title: Technical Assistance to the State Statistical Office
 Funding instrument: IPA 2007
 Start date: 1 February 2010
 End date: 31 March 2012
 Budget: 1.8 million EUR
 Number of implemented missions: 255
 Study visits realized: 4
 Trainings and seminars: 12
 Number of participants from the SSO: 115

Primary objectives of the Project:

- Strengthening of the capacity of the SSO and its partners
- Continuity with previous EU-funded projects
- Focus on priority areas for the European Commission
- Strengthening of the production and dissemination of statistical data in accordance with the Acquis

The Project consisted of 4 components:

Component 1: Development of a Quality System for all Processes in the Production of Statistics
 Component 2: Further Harmonised National Accounts and other Economic Statistics
 Component 3: Improved Business Statistics
 Component 4: Improved Social Statistics

Results achieved:

- Metadata Strategy developed
- Micro-data access for researchers
- Statistical Business Register (SBR) quality assessed
- Increased awareness about Quality of Processes
- Guidelines and Instruments for the Presentation of Statistics
- Improved Knowledge and Practice of Statistical Methodology
- IT training
- Sector Accounts
- Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)
- Supply and Use Tables
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation
- Quarterly GDP
- ESA 2010 (European System of Accounts) and SNA 2008 (System of National Accounts)
- Review of the existing system of data for compilation of SBS – Annexes I-IV
- More knowledge on insurance services and credit institutions
- Quality of publication of SBS
- Quality reports
- Construction costs index for new residential buildings
- New sample survey for retail and wholesale trade
- Industrial producer price index for the non-domestic market
- Deflator for retail and wholesale trade
- Improvement of the comparability of transport statistics data
- Trainings – Statistical Business Register
- Transition from NACE Rev.1 to NACE Rev.2
- Living standard statistics (EU-Survey on Income and Living Conditions - SILC, Laeken indicators)
- Social services statistics (Continuing Vocational Training Survey - CVTS, education, crime, culture)
- Labour market statistics (Structure of Earnings Survey - SES, Social Short-term Statistics Indicators)



What they said about the Project:

Ullrich Eichler, Project Leader:

This was an excellent project that was carried out with no difficulties whatsoever thanks to the highly motivated staff of the State statistical Office, their level of expertise and continuous orientation toward new achievements. It was our joint project and we all worked together as a team. I am fascinated by Macedonia and the people I worked with during my stay in Skopje. I saw many of the beauties of Macedonia and someday I must return to this beautiful country!

Blagica Novkovska, Director-General of the State Statistical Office:

The Project “Technical Assistance to the State Statistical Office” was an exceptionally ambitious project, both according to the number of topics covered and the number of expert missions.

The achievements of this Project are the result of the great dedication of our employees, their optimism and enthusiasm and, above all, their willingness to accept changes.

At the beginning of the Project, after the first missions and the initial activities, we asked ourselves: “Will we be able to accomplish all planned activities?” However, it soon became clear that we **must** achieve what was planned. As always, the greatest support in achieving the goals was our optimism, enthusiasm and the confidence in our potential.

With this Project we achieved visible and measurable results that confirm our dedication toward continuous and sustainable development of the statistical system of the Republic of Macedonia.

We are well aware that the new standards and surveys that we implemented require sustainability, and that the newly acquired knowledge and skills must be continuously improved. Therefore, the State Statistical Office and the other participants in the statistical system as a whole are prepared to use the benefits of the Project to ensure the further development of official statistics.