

# **TWINNING CONTRACT**

**BA 17 IPA ST 01 20**

## **Further Support to the Reform of the Statistics System in Bosnia and Herzegovina**



## **STUDY VISIT REPORT**

**on**

**Component 3 – Administrative Data Sources**

**Activity 3S2: Study Visit to Statistics office of the Republic of Slovenia**

18-19 December 2023

Version: Final

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**List of Abbreviations**

BC	Beneficiary Country
BHAS	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CBBH	Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina
EU	European Union
FIS	Institute for Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MS	EU Member State
RSIS	Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
ToR	Terms of Reference

## 1. General comments

This study visit report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project "Further Support to the Reform of the Statistics System in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and organised under Component 3 – Administrative Data Sources, Activity 3S2.

The purpose of the study visit was, mainly, to get information on how the Statistics office of the Republic of Slovenia - SURS have utilised administrative data sources for the production of short-term business statistics (STS) in Slovenia. We were introduced with experience of our colleagues in SURS in implementation of administrative data sources in production of STS indicators and on their work on full implementation of new EBS regulation. In addition, we were introduced with all phases of statistical production process in SURS, which follows the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). Similar approach will be applied in production of short-term business statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Experience gained during the SV was very useful for representatives of BiH's statistical institutions and will be used in our future work on development of common statistical production system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The staff of BHAS, FIS, RSIS and CBBH would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Finland.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the participants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, BHAS, FIS, RSIS, CBBH, Statistics Denmark, Statistics Sweden, Statistics Finland or Istat.

## 2. Lessons Learned

During the study visit, participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) statistical institutions were provided with detailed information on SURS experience on implementation of administrative data sources for STS production, including overview of the development of short-term business statistics (STS) in Slovenia. SURS presented the status of STS production, methodology applied for production of STS turnover indices, and alignment with the new EBS regulation 2019/2152. A key priority for SURS has been to maximize the use of administrative data sources and to decrease the costs and the response burden. The use of the VAT data as the main data source demanded considerable changes in the methodological and technical realization of the survey process used in SURS. During the study visit, SURS presented their practices in production of STS statistics, including range of development projects that were implemented with the aim to fully implement new EBS regulation. The study visit offered an in-depth understanding of the entire statistical production of STS turnover indicators at SURS. SURS adopted a new methodology for STS production, reorganized their statistical production process based on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) that covers the most important stages of statistical production process. This transition has resulted in improved coverage of statistical units, refinement of procedures, and enhanced overall quality of produces STS statistics. Modernization of statistical production system in SURS enable automatically processing of data in different stages of the statistical processing of data. A web application for electronic reporting of data (eSTAT) contributes to lower costs, fewer errors in data, less manual work for statisticians and easier and faster reporting for respondents.

Main objective was moving from an individual survey (domain oriented system) to general (process-oriented solutions) in order to make the whole production system more efficient and less expensive. Experience from SURS will be used in development of appropriate STS production system that should be used for all STS surveys in BiH. Particular attention during the study visit was given to the various statistical projects implemented in SURS in order to meet new EBS requirements, such as, implementation of KAU as statistical unit, development of the new Index of services production (ISP) and production of deflated turnover indices in wholesale trade.

### **3. Conclusions and recommendations**

The study visit to SURS surpassed our expectations, particularly in providing detailed insights into their implementation of administrative data sources for STS production. Since the statistical institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina have not yet incorporated administrative data into the production of Short-Term Statistics (STS) turnover indices, the insights gathered during the visit will form the basis for our forthcoming development project. The unanimous view among all participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina is that generic statistical production system established in SURS is a well-structured production system based on the GSBPM covers the main phases of the statistical production process. Given that the statistical production system in BiH is still in its initial development, the lessons learned during the study visit will be used in our ongoing efforts on modernization of statistical production process in BiH. We are highly satisfied with the acquired knowledge and the chance to learn from SURS regarding development a generic production system based on the GSBPM model. Additionally, our discussions on various STS methodological issues were highly productive, especially considering SURS experience in the use of administrative (VAT data) for STS production.

## Annex 1. Programme

	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>09.00-9.15</b>	<b>Opening session; introducing of experts and participants</b>
<b>09.15-09.30</b>	<b>Short-term business statistics – short overview</b>
<b>09.30-10.30</b>	<b>Production of STS data</b>
<b>10.30-11.30</b>	<b>Implementation, impact and changes of STS package in EBS</b>
<b>11.30-12.30</b>	<b>Administrative data in STS</b>
<b>12.30-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14.00-15.30</b>	<b>VAT data in Trade and Services</b>
	<b>Tuesday 19 December</b>
<b>09.30-10.00</b>	<b>Recap of the first day</b>
<b>10.00-11.00</b>	<b>Implementation of KAU as the statistical unit for trade and services</b>
<b>11.00-11.15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11.15-12.30</b>	<b>Index of service and trade production</b>
<b>12.30-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14.00-15.30</b>	<b>Total market production index</b>
<b>15.30-16.00</b>	<b>Other issues</b>

## **Annex 2. Persons met**

### **Statistics Slovenia: (LARISA)**

Representatives from Business Statistics Sector

#### **Participants:**

##### **Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska**

- Mr. Radosav Savanovic, Deputy Director
- Ms. Sanela Borojevic, Senior Statistician for Trade Statistics and component leader for Administrative Data Sources Component in the framework of IPA 2017 Twinning project on behalf of RSIS
- Ms. Jelena Glamocika, Head of Services Statistics Division
- Ms. Andrea Erak Latinovic, Head of Department for Industry, Construction and Energy Statistics
- Ms. Aleksandra Donlaga, Senior Statistician for Service Price Statistics
- Mr. Mladen Marić, Head of Department for Application Development and Database Administration

##### **Federal Institute of Statistics FBiH: (LARISA – SOME TITLES, if not too complicated to find)**

- Ms. Merima Beganovic, Senior Advisor for Business Statistics
- Ms. Nusreta Imamovic, Head of Department for Industry, Construction and Energy
- Mr. Muhidin Hadžiahmetović, Assistant Director for Business Statistics
- Ms. Nasiha Imširović, Senior Advisor for Industry Statistics
- Mr. Adnan Lušija, Junior Associate
- Mr. Hasan Karačić, Secretary of FIS FBiH

##### **Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

- Mr. Adnan Cerić, BHAS Deputy Director;
- Ms. Radmila Cickovic, BHAS Deputy Director;
- Mr. Velimir Jukic, Assistant Director of Business Statistics;
- Mr. Alen Bajramovic, Head of the Department for Services Statistics and Component Coordinator;
- Mr. Fahir Kanlic, Head of the Department of Industry and Construction Statistics and Component Coordinator;
- Ms. Maja Hadzi-Stojanov, Senior Officer in Services Statistics Department and member of the Working Group for Administrative Data through the IPA 2017 Twinning project

##### **RTA Team:**

- Ms. Larisa Muslimovic, RTA assistant